

THE AUSTIN


CHRONICLE

Happy 2006!

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BALLOT P.89

Vol. 25 No. 18 ★ austinchronicle.com ★ December 30, 2005

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Beyond Belief

Belligerent intolerance is no testament to faith

BY LOUIS BLACK

'Tis the season to state that from now on I refuse to be defined by people who think that by constantly declaring their love of God and their unquestioning, deep belief in their religions, they are relieved of the more onerous responsibilities and behavior prescribed by such faiths. Those very faiths' carefully laid-out, moral and spiritual guides for personal behavior and action – the day-to-day way of respecting one's creator – are evidently waived. All they have to do is: 1) loudly proclaim, publicly and often, that they and their kind are leading truly godly lives, while also pointing out that most others aren't, and 2) maintain that any indiscretion committed in the service of punishing, attacking, and demeaning those who are unbelievers of the one and only true way of your faith.

The first, of course, is a bit more important: Just talking about your faith, your belief, and your commitment to the principles of your religion relieves you of all specific responsibilities and expectations for personal actions, as well as familial, community, and neighborly interactions and responsibilities.

Not only that, but, by so vigorously stating your piousness, you are not only free to ignore the more mundane cautions, but have the right – no, make that the responsibility – to lecture others on their failings.

Thus, a healthy percentage of the letter-writers whose criticisms of my beliefs are offered from strongly religious points of view often include implied, or even overt, threats as well. Witness the excerpts from this letter:

"Mr. Black's incoherent leftist rant is eclipsed only by his naked and abject hypocrisy ["Page Two," Nov. 4]. ...

"Let us look in the mirror of truth. Mr. Black is a neoleftist utopian who clings to moral relativism as the key ingredient to understanding the meaning of life. This makes it convenient for him and his ilk to find sympathy, tolerance, and acceptance of deviant ideologies such as Marxism, suicidal pacifism, anarchic chic, equivocating multiculturalism, and whatever ideology the mavens of social fashion may deem as admirable. Conversely, moral relativism affords him the fig leaf to be outraged at any ideological opinions labeled as unfashionable. ...

"These truths are self-evident. All one need do to see it is to make a moral commitment to objective truth seeking. Unfortunately for Mr. Black, he is left wanting and advocating a mindset of moral hypocrisy that has shown historically to be the pavement on the road to hell. He and his fellow travelers must be resisted totally. Rest assured, they will be."

I don't know; I think this one is more explicit than implied. What about you? Come on: "These truths are self-evident. ... He and

his fellow travelers must be resisted totally. Rest assured, they will be." Isn't that so Christian!?! Isn't that just turning the other cheek and loving your neighbor!?! Isn't that so being without sin, as well as true-blue American patriotism at its best?

Certainly, this is an extreme, not a representation of mass opinion. But it gets to the point. I'm sick to death of having other people describe the limits of my faith, as well as how diseased my beliefs are, based on their stereotypes of those who disagree with them.

I was raised to believe that one's religion is a matter of personal business and not community discussion or judgment. Proclaiming one's beliefs was considered rude, pathetic, and simpleminded. Living in a society where those who most often and loudly claim that they believe are rewarded, and those who keep their beliefs to themselves are stigmatized, is to live in a world where God is really being trivialized.

This holiday season, this time of Christmas, this changing of the years, this wonderful week of realignment and revival should be a time of joining together and not hysterically excluding, of understanding and not judging.

Editing and reworded to avoid specifics – because my religion is my business – at a special celebration for my son, I offered the following:

"The very core of who I am is defined and crafted by my religion. Everything I've ever done of any worth was informed by the principles of our religion and the moral and ethical guidelines of its thought, taught to me by my parents. I hope one day you will say the same, and that you are already long on that path."

This is by no means an uncommon view, but because it is privately held and rarely so stated, true believers will frequently express their sorrow that I don't know God. As though they do, and have special access to all others who are in on it.

I've been labeled a nonbeliever, an atheist, a pagan, a fellow traveler on the way to hell. In a sense, who cares? Calling someone those terms makes them only self-referential; you are what you speak.

The morally self-satisfied (thus inherently questionable, as those terms are mutually exclusive) are also gleefully and capriciously passing judgment on all others.

This is the season to reject bigotry and hypocrisy. This is a season of friends, family, and love.

Along these lines I offer you the following letter to the editor, and then my response. After that, I just wish all of you the best, and bow out.

"Dear Editor,

"Gosh, I thought liberals like Louis Black were supposed to be sensitive types, all concerned about what 'offends' people. Just not Christians; when they get offended, he writes stupid little 'Page Two' [Dec. 23 stories about Christian terrorists and murderers. Tell you what, Louis, why don't you substitute Christians pissed off about 'Happy Holidays' with blacks pissed off about the South Carolina flag? Love to see that column. Dude, you're so full of hatred and intolerance, it's sad to watch it unfold weekly. Glad you have a newspaper to hide behind, no telling what you'd do if you couldn't vent. Merry Christmas.

– Carl Swanson

"[Louis Black responds: A lot of people are going to 'Happy Holidays' to be inclusive, which seems appropriate for the season. Still, if you travel through the American landscape at all, just open your eyes and your ears and shut your mouth. In every way, the entire culture is loudly singing 'Christmas.' This country is drenched in Christmas, make no mistake about it. The argument that there is a war against Christmas rests on hysterically exaggerated, anecdotal evidence – a relatively few scattered incidents, paranoid fantasies about a nefarious government campaign against Christianity, and just ridiculous misconceptions and lies about existing laws. To the contrary, this country has an overwhelmingly dominant Christian majority. Any claim of a widespread anti-Christian conspiracy denies obvious reality to such an extent as to appear beyond hallucinogenic. Personally, I have no problem with 'Merry Christmas,' but it is frustrating to watch talk-show hosts, political leaders, and preachers puff up another nonexistent threat as though it is the impending apocalypse in order to mobilize their faithful.

"At the bottom, the ploy is that Christians – not simply the overwhelming majority but the authority in our culture – are persecuted and endangered by those civil-liberties-loving

Oops! In last week's Naked City, an item on the House District 48 race incorrectly listed the order in which the candidates will appear on the Jan. 17 special election ballot. The correct order is as follows: Democrat Kathy Rider, Democrat Donna Howard, Libertarian Ben Easton, and Republican Ben Bentzin. A second Republican, Robert Reynolds, has dropped out of the race, and his name will not appear on the ballot. See this week's Naked City for more District 48 campaign news.

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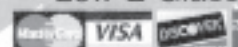
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Christian haters. It isn't true, but the idea is even more disgusting than a simple lie. The strategy is to get one group of Americans to hate another group of Americans as a way of promoting theology/ideology. Christmas is now very much an American moment and a commercial holiday; this assertion of spirituality is an attempt to nonspecifically blame what has happened to Christmas over the last century on a few. Isn't there some sense of outrage at the venal and manipulative exploitation of the celebration of the birth of the Child into a political/ideological/theological tool to promote divisiveness and anger? Isn't the real celebration of his birth not in draped public lighting and gaudy signage, but in your hearts, your souls, and your prayers? There are many areas of disagreement among all people. This isn't about disagreements.]"

Finally, last week's column was a satire portraying all Christians as though they shared the beliefs of the most extreme, disenfranchised, fanatical few, which is exactly the tactic the leaders against the "War on Christmas" are using to pretend there is any kind of issue at all.

Office Closed

The *Chronicle* offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 29, and Friday, Dec. 30, and will reopen for regular business hours Monday, Jan. 2.

POSTMARKS

Openly Taking Stance

Dear Editor,

The current commissioner's [Karen Sonleitner] letter to the editor on Dec. 16 ["Postmarks"] only affirms our membership made the right decision by supporting Sarah Eckhardt's commitment to sound government ["Sheriff's Unions Back Eckhardt for Precinct 2 Commissioner," News, Dec. 9].

What's sad about the commissioner's letter is her frail attempt to try to equate our membership's decision to support Sarah Eckhardt with the personal greed of the men and women who protect this community. The commissioner's budget numbers and facts were skewed during negotiations this year, and they're even worse in her letter to you.

It's our position over the years that the commissioner has increasingly lost touch with her ability to effectively govern on issues relating to the crucial mission of the Sheriff's Office. The Travis County Sheriff's Officers Association and the Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Association represent nearly 90% of the employees of the Sheriff's Office. We take the safety of the citizens of Travis County very seriously. We feel it is our responsibility to ensure our office's mission is represented by our elected officials commensurate to the level of service we provide to their constituents.

In the case of the commissioners of Precinct 2, just because the commissioner tends to vote in line with other pro-public-safety members of the court, does *not* mean the commissioner is supporting our employees in a manner that is equal to the unmatched level of public safety services we provide throughout the county.

Our job as peace officers is sometimes unpopular, but very necessary, much like speaking out against an 11-year incumbent. The fact that both associations are openly taking this stance against the commissioner should alert the party and our citizens of the urgency for immediate change!

Brett Spicer, PAC chairman
Travis County Sheriffs' Law
Enforcement Association
Alex Leo, PAC chairman
Travis County Officers' Association

Where Develop?

Dear Editor,

In "Downtown Density Dreams" [News, Dec. 23] by Rachel Proctor May, Kirsten Bartel said, "We're all for [Austin] being denser overall, not just downtown." In a piece about AMD moving out off of Southwest Parkway again there is an anti-development attitude. I'm curious where the *Chronicle* thinks the best place for development is. Is East Austin OK? I doubt it, because of the horrors of gentrification and rising land values as a result – but maybe I'm wrong. So that leaves North Austin, if you can look past the poor family farmer getting kicked off his land in Hutto after making a mint on the land sale. I'm all for planned growth, but this article hit the nail on the head of the problem when it states that Downtown living is too expensive for the average family. So what do we do? I hear Bastrop is nice.

John Phillippe

[Rachel Proctor May responds: I'm confused. Bartel's quote is supportive of greater density – Downtown, in her own neighborhood, and elsewhere. Someone's going to have to explain to me how that's "anti-development." Plus, the Downtown plan isn't the only effort afoot to create more and better affordable housing opportunities for your average Josephine: There's another movement afoot to try to figure out ways to develop the area around SH 130 in a more pleasing manner than has been achieved along, say, 183. That won't help much if you're a teacher who wants to live in Travis Heights or Tarriytown, but it's a start.]

Column Largely Incorrect

Dear Editor,

I am a criminal lawyer, board certified in criminal law since 1987. Part II of your recent column on deferred adjudication was largely incorrect. (I did not see part I) ["The Common Law," Dec. 16].

You can never get an expunction if you had deferred adjudication, or any other court-ordered supervision. The only cases which can be expunged are ones which were dismissed or in which you were acquitted. Both felonies and misdemeanors are expungable. There are some fine points, but that is the basic law.

Successfully completed deferred adjudications, felony and misdemeanor, are what petitions for nondisclosure are for. There are some

continued on p.10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or e-mail address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Letters may not be edited, added to, or changed by sender once we receive them.



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exceptions, some waiting periods, and some ambiguities in this recent legislation. Unlike expunction, law enforcement agencies can retain records, but no information is to be disclosed to the public. The big difference is that unlike expunction, to which you are entitled if you qualify, orders of nondisclosure are to be granted by the judge if it is “in the interest of justice,” meaning that as a practical matter it is discretionary with the judge.

There is a similar-sounding disposition called deferred disposition, in JP and municipal courts, for class C misdemeanors. If successfully completed, the case is dismissed and can be expunged.

Leon Grizzard
Attorney at law

Can’t Afford Marfa

Dear Editor,

After reading “Morphing Marfa” I felt as deflated as I did after leaving on a recent trip this summer [“To Marfa, on a Tuesday in December,” Arts, Dec. 23]. I looked at real estate with the dream of possibly moving to Marfa and teaching nearby. I was shocked by the prices of these homes when I contacted agents. Sure, Marfa is on its way up thanks to the hipster scene, but I think it’s unfortunate that people who want to come to Marfa to “play cowboy” for a weekend contribute nothing to the local economy. “They see the doctor, refill prescriptions, and dry-clean their clothes in Houston, Austin, Dallas, or New York.” That’s the problem. These visitors aren’t helping the town build these services locally. You are keeping people out who love Marfa and want to build a life there. As it stands, there is no way someone like me, a schoolteacher, could

move to Marfa and afford to live on the wages the town is capable of providing in relation to the cost of housing. Sadly, it looks as though Marfa won’t continue to grow until the wealthy find their next hip getaway.

Gentrified,
Bonny Edwards

Progressives Will Turn Out

Dear Editor,

Part of the answer to Michael King’s question as to the whereabouts of all the progressives in the current Capital Metro vs. the unions fray is that the NPR set may pity workers, but they rarely identify as workers [“Point Austin,” News, Dec. 16]. Also, the local dailies – *Statesman*, *Texan*, and *TV* – refuse to cover most labor unrest, fearing advertising backlash and unionization by its own workers. Were it not for the *Chronicle*, and our local IMC, the plight of workers in Austin would be little known. Once we overcome the labor blackout by corporate media, the progressives will begin to turn out. When they realize their own true place in capitalism’s scheme they will turn out in droves.

Glenn Gaven
UT shuttle worker

Who Cares?

Dear Editor,

Re: “Page Two,” Dec. 16: “The Loner” was Neil Young’s first solo single and was released on a 7-inch in December 1968. The original pressings of *Neil Young* didn’t have any text on the front sleeve, so mistakenly calling the album by the first track isn’t all that far-fetched.

Who cares?

Mr. Black and the SXSW crew got Neil to come to Austin.

Marc Perlman

SOS Electioneering

Dear Editor,

Thank you for Amy Smith’s great article on AMD’s proposed move of thousands of employees out of East Austin and into the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Watershed [“Back to the Trenches,” News, Dec. 16]. To our knowledge, no company has ever proposed to abandon East Austin and relocate in our most fragile watershed. This controversy will only intensify in the months ahead.

We are working with many community groups to gather enough signatures to place on the May ballot two proposed charter amendments (changes to Austin’s constitution). The Save Our Springs charter amendment would – if approved by voters – specifically ask AMD and other major employers not to locate in the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Watershed, among other measures to protect Barton Springs.

The Open Government Online charter amendment would – if approved by voters – put City Council members’ calendars online, so the public can see whom they are spending their time with, along with other measures to improve transparency at City Hall for all citizens to see.

Mayor Wynn was meeting privately with AMD about their scheme months before the public knew of AMD’s intentions. If the Open Government Online charter amendment had been in place, the public would have known when the mayor’s meeting with CEO Hector Ruiz was scheduled.

Rather than alerting and enlisting the entire community to deter AMD from a disastrous decision to urbanize the fragile Barton Springs Watershed, Wynn agreed to keep AMD’s plans secret. With a smidgen of public leadership, AMD would have already changed course and narrowed their search to the Desired Development Zone, as so many tech companies have done successfully, most recently downtown-bound Silicon Labs.

Read both of the proposed charter amendments at www.cleanwater-cleangovernment.org. You can also download the petitions and gather signatures to help get these needed amendments on the ballot in May.

Sincerely,
Colin Clark
Communications director
Save Our Springs Alliance

Gosh, This Is Embarassing

Dear Editor,

I know there is a taboo against understanding basic economics (abortion is sooo much more important), but does this have to extend to the top of Capital Metro [“Bus Negotiations Headed for Collision,” News, Dec. 23]? When I pay taxes to support them it is implied that they pay adequate wages. Why? Because of an economic concept called the multiplier effect. When Dell brings money from outside our area and spends it locally it will go round and round in the local economy generating activity. That multiplying factor is between 3x and 8x and is the subject of argument between economists. But this much is clear, as wages drop that multiplier goes down. Tax expenditures are midway in the chain and have a larger effect. The extra that Metro workers have to spend is the money that small businesses live from. This is basic high school economics. Was it dropped from the curriculum? Is the world so full of specialists and micromanaging accountants that we have forgotten how the whole system works? Why does this need a letter to the editor to even come into the discussion? Where is the union? This should be part of their interview. Gosh, this is embarrassing.

Larkin Skinner

continued on p.12

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Don't Take Offense at Others

Dear Editor,

It is increasingly clear that “behavior” legislation in this country has leaned dramatically toward accommodating the “needs of the few,” essentially to promote “political correctness.” This is disastrous policy. Is this what freedom is supposed to be about? What happened to basic courtesy and tolerance for others?

Responding to Russell Kirkman's letter [“Postmarks,” Dec. 23], I would submit that fault can be found everywhere a few people take offense to the goings-on of others that don't conform to their own “perfect world” expectations. Better watch out, because legislation or the ACLU is soon on its way to put a stop to it.

“Holiday Tree”? Give me a break — three out of four Americans are Christian and are following an American tradition. “Intelligent Design”? Did we really need the Supreme Court to rule on the stupidity of that one? Can't print a T-shirt with the outline of a fish on it for your high school class because it's a religious symbol? Come on.

And we'd better not help our fellow man, or share, or tell the truth, or have any thoughts at all about anyone, especially your neighbor! — because those cultural aspects all have a foundation in some religion. We'd also better outlaw the practice of serving fish in virtually every restaurant in America on Fridays and accommodating every other religious/cultural behavior!

If you truly dig down into the origins of virtually any tradition or act or symbolism in America, you'll find a basis for it in one religion or another. So does that mean we need to restrict them all? If so, we'd all better just stand still. Better yet, if you don't like a tradition or cultural practice, go somewhere else.

Peter Lunsford

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Last Day at Mojo's

Dear Editor,

Re: My last day at Mojo's, Dec. 18, 2005: I first started to partake in the culture of Mojo's in 1997, then heavily in 1998 after the first girl that told me she loved me broke up with me. That was the day after my 25th birthday. Chris

and Ron were sympathetic ears to my sadness. Several games of spades, bridge, hundreds of hours of bullshitting (really), porch drama (oh damn, porch drama), frat-boy fights (and the threats and golf balls thrown at us from the muhfuckas), drag rats and homelessness (including myself), drunken harassment, clouds of weed (and after all this time, I still did not

partake), predatory males and females, death, marriage, divorce (and an upcoming marriage), loneliness, school, the insanity of life. I don't consider myself a representative of too many places. In this case, I do represent a place that houses people that don't have a home. Like many families, it is dysfunctional, but love (in one way or another) was always around for the giving and taking. Before I go on to make more run-on sentences and spout all-around bad grammar, I shall take leave of Mojo's remembering the all-nighters in the spring, summer, and fall. Now that Mojo's Daily Grind is descending into its winter, hopefully the spirit of Mojo's shall spring up elsewhere. For me this is not a goodbye, it's “later.”

Chilimbwe Washington

Have a Gay Holiday

Dear Editor,

Re: Leoda Anderson's letter [“Postmarks,” Dec. 9]: We're tired of you shortsighted bigots “redefining new ... social situations.” Let's stick with the old constitutional rights of all U.S. citizens. Constitutional rights are not subject to majority rule. Two foxes and a hen don't get to decide what to have for dinner. Your comparing apples to oranges to gay marriage is comparing apples to oranges and totally bigoted. Marriage is already defined as “A union between two people who are committed in a loving relationship as spouses.” And we'll stick with the Constitution not your fascism and call ourselves spouses and married, not your suggested “matches.” “Tim and Jim” pay taxes, for your brats education I might add, and can't even protect each other as spouses from haters like you. You don't own the word marriage or the sanctity of anything, period. Have a gay holiday Leoda.

Scott Pelham

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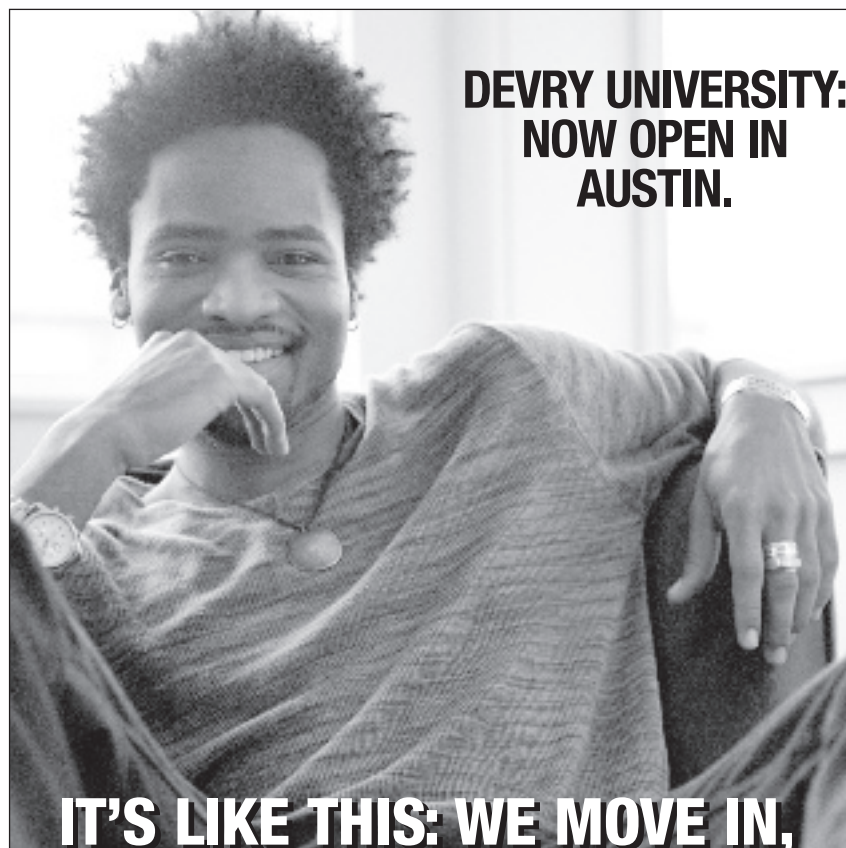
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Quote of the WEEK

"It is ironic that several of these individuals, who so staunchly and proudly touted their religious convictions in public, would time and again lie to cover their tracks and disguise the real purpose behind the [Intelligent Design] Policy. ... The breathtaking inanity of the board's decision is evident when considered against the factual backdrop which has now been fully revealed through this trial. The students, parents, and teachers of the Dover Area School District deserved better than to be dragged into this legal maelstrom, with its resulting utter waste of monetary and personal resources."

— U.S. District Judge John E. Jones in last week's ruling on *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District*

POINT AUSTIN

Blame It on Grandpa

In search of heroes and villains over AMD

BY MICHAEL KING

"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got, 'til it's gone; they paved paradise, and put up a parking lot."

— Joni Mitchell, "Big Yellow Taxi"

Last week I wrote about the dubious environmental logic underlying Advanced Micro Devices' defense of its corporate move to the Lantana site in Southwest Austin, specifically the likelihood that however ecologically sustainable its own construction plans turn out to be, the secondary development inevitably associated with a major employer hardly bodes well for the Edwards Aquifer beneath it. AMD corporate has responded with a resigned, pragmatic shrug; this land, long held against a profitable day by Stratus Corp., is going to be developed, willy-nilly, and therefore it might as well be developed by a deep-pocketed patron that can afford the safeguards that will make the Lantana campus an environmental showplace. AMD's recent agreement to purchase the land outright, rather than rely on the blandishments of Stratus to protect the site, gives evidence of both the company's seriousness about its construction plans and its determination to defy public opposition and settle at Lantana.

As to *after* AMD? Le deluge.

The political logic of the battle over the aquifer is something else again. Save Our Springs Alliance, the most prominent of the several environmental organizations opposed to AMD's move, sees this decision as the potential tipping point in the three-decades-long battle to protect both the aquifer and the waters fed by it, most importantly Barton Springs. "Barton Springs may be lost in 2006," SOS wrote to supporters last week, pointing not only to the AMD decision, but to the Lower Colorado River Authority's continuing extension of water lines feeding development sprawling westward, and the long-term highway/tollway plans of TxDOT and its unholy stepchild, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. Against such political and bureaucratic behemoths, who will stand for the rest of us?

Well, there's the Austin City Council.

Alas, don't laugh. Still looking for a villain — apparently AMD CEO Hector Ruiz is too shy and roly-poly to sufficiently fill the bill — SOS has lately settled on Mayor Will Wynn as a likely suspect, because in the Alliance's judgment he has been inadequately stalwart in opposing AMD and persuading the company to look elsewhere. (Wynn insists that he and city staff did everything they could, but company officials were unmoved.) "Mayor Wynn is not alone in his silence and backroom dealings as this irreversible train-wreck happens," SOS director Bill Bunch declares, in his best Sal Costello-esque mode. "This silence from City Hall is deafening."

continued on p.16

HEADLINES

- ▶ With much of the city still on **holiday**, City Council not scheduled to meet again until Jan. 12, and hundreds of movers and shakers heading to Pasadena for the Rose Bowl, local attention is focused on football and First Night, beginning Saturday afternoon and running 'til midnight.
- ▶ UT's Christmas stocking held only a lump of coal from the U.S. Department of Energy, as the incumbent University of California, partnering with Bechtel Corp. was chosen over the team of UT/Lockheed Martin Corp. to run the **Los Alamos National Nuclear Lab**. The lab has been plagued with security, safety, and morale problems in recent years. UT Chancellor Mark Yudof wished the winners the best of luck, but U.S. Rep. Joe Barton scowled and demanded a Congressional review. See p.17.
- ▶ The Texas 3rd Court of Appeals rejected U.S. Rep. **Tom DeLay's** request for a speedy trial on money laundering charges in the Texans for a Republican Majority indictments brought by Travis Co. DA Ronnie Earle. The trial has been delayed by Earle's appeal of a lower court dismissal of one conspiracy count against DeLay. At press time, DeLay attorney Dick DeGuerin was appealing to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, hoping for either a speedy resolution or else an outright dismissal of all charges.
- ▶ While Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld spent the Christmas holiday feeding steak, lobster tail, and photo ops to U.S. troops, the **Bush administration** continued to defend its unwarranted spying on American telephones and the "I" word — impeachment — was dimly heard throughout the land. The New Year brings congressional hearings on the National Security Agency eavesdropping, Senate hearings on the Supreme Court appointment of Judge Samuel Alito, and continuing hostilities in Iraq, with a small cutback in U.S. troops and an increasing emphasis on bombing attacks. See "Bringing the War Home," p.26.

NAKED CITY

- ▶ You almost need a program to keep up with the **House District 48** campaigns leading up to a special election Jan. 17. No sooner had Republican Robert Reynolds filed his candidacy last week than he dropped out of the race — all in a span of two days. Reynolds told the *Statesman* that he opted out of the race for family reasons, but a persistent buzz held that the GOP power brokers either sweet-talked or strong-armed Reynolds off the playing field to give their choice candidate, former Dell executive Ben Bentzin, a clearer shot at winning. Still, the field is just crowded enough to give Bentzin a run for his money and force him into a run-off with one of two Democrats — Donna Howard or Kathy Rider. Of the two, Howard appears to be in the lead in terms of fundraising and support from notable local yokels. The added presence of Libertarian candidate Ben Easton could also shake things up a bit, at least from a vote-getting perspective. Early voting runs Jan. 3-13. Polling locations (not yet posted at press time) can be found at www.co.travis.tx.us. — Amy Smith
- ▶ Judge **Jim Coronado**, the Travis County criminal district court magistrate, has filed as a Democratic candidate for the Place 2 post on the 3rd Court of Criminal Appeals. Coronado is a director of the State Bar of Texas, where he sits on the executive committee. He was a founding member and president of the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas and national vice president of the Hispanic National Bar Association. The Place 2 seat on the appeals court was previously held by Justice Mack Kidd, a Democrat, who died earlier this year. In August, Gov. Rick Perry appointed Alan Waldrop to serve out the remainder of Kidd's term. Waldrop hopes to keep the seat and filed his candidacy last week with the state Republican Party. Until his appointment, Waldrop had been a lobbyist with Texans for Lawsuit Reform, the deep-pocketed group that led the state's tort reform measure. — A.S.

continued on p.17

Legislative Handcuffs

That suggests we can expect pitched rhetorical battles in the next few weeks over the council's allegedly turpitudinous timidity. It's true the council hasn't had a great deal to say on AMD matters of late, glumly acquiescing to the advice of city staff and attorneys that AMD is "entitled" to its plans for the Lantana tracts under rights "grandfathered" by the Legislature under HB 1704. As Amy Smith reported a few weeks ago, the phrase "lead-pipe cinch" was tossed about liberally in connection with AMD's entitlements ("Back to the Trenches," Dec. 16), and the current council is visibly lacking a heedless standard-bearer willing to charge up Lantana Hill against the lead pipes of the corporate legal hordes. Ergo, the "deafening silence."

Those council members willing to talk about the AMD issue told me bluntly, in the words of Raul Alvarez, "Legally, I don't think there's anything we can do." Like his colleagues, Alvarez said he is opposed to any major employer locating over the aquifer, on its own merits, and because "it goes against three decades of city policies." Whether the council might use its bully pulpit to fulminate against AMD remains an open question; Alvarez said he would be open to considering a resolution "that reiterates our decades-long opposition to a major employer locating in this ecologically sensitive zone." Likewise Jennifer

"Legally, I don't think there's anything we can do."

– Council Member Raul Alvarez, on the AMD move to Lantana

Kim said she would consider such a resolution, "depending on what it says," but considers it much more important to move forward on a regional water-quality management plan that would involve Austin and all the neighboring jurisdictions in establishing specific policies to protect the aquifer.

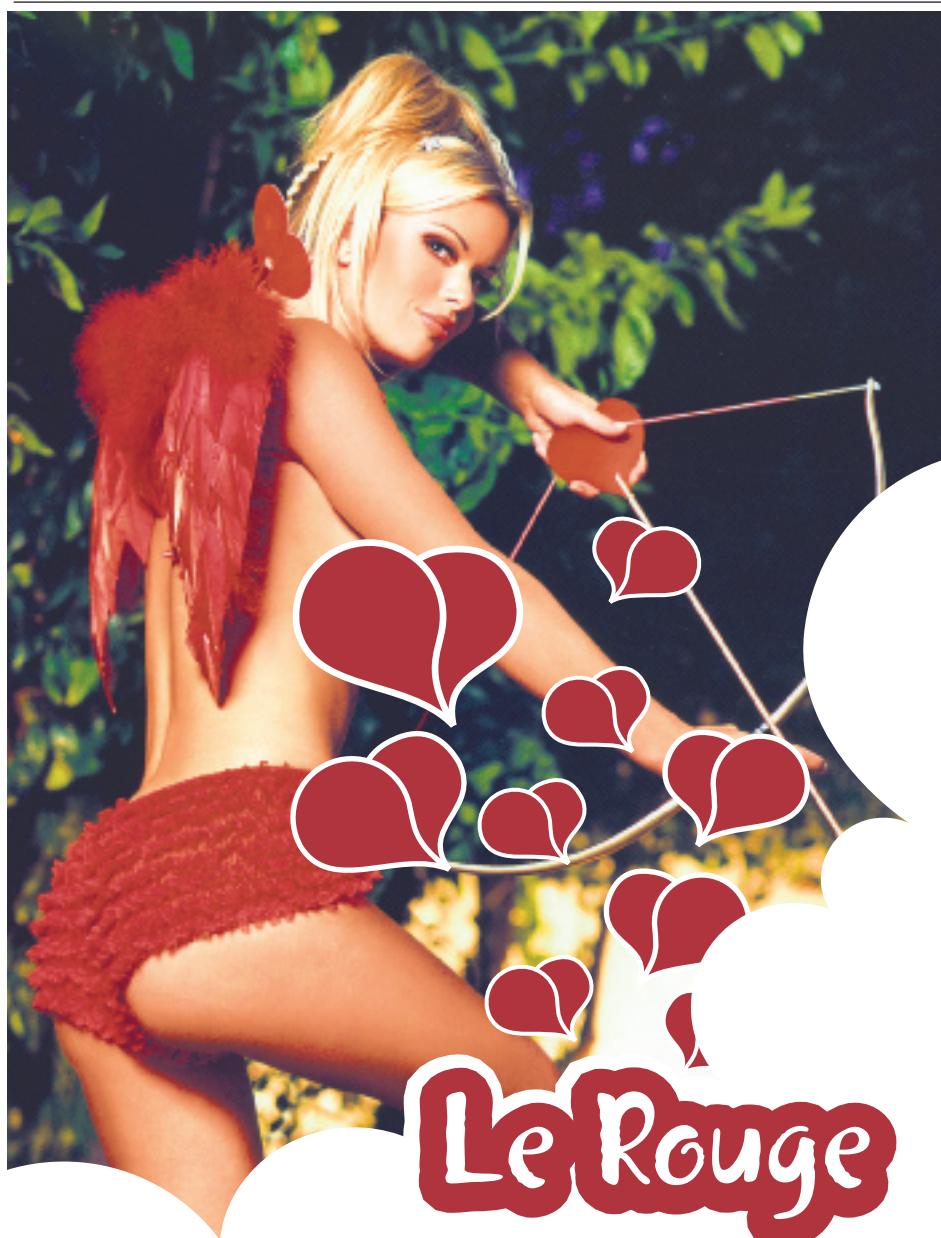
Mayor Wynn and Lee Leffingwell dismissed any such symbolic resolution as pointless. "It would be without any practical effect," said Wynn. "And I've been consistently opposed to political statements that declare a position while accomplishing nothing truly constructive." Leffingwell described such a resolution as a "pointless exercise," and even counterproductive if it obstructs any future ability of the city to "build good will." Whatever the council does, Leffingwell says, "I don't think they [AMD] are going to suddenly change their mind" about locat-

ing at Lantana. "I'm absolutely convinced they are dead set on having this project out there."

Leffingwell argues that the best way to protect the aquifer now is to negotiate the best possible mitigation on the land itself – "It's good so far, but it could be better" – and particularly to find ways to exclude nearby open lands from further development. "There are very few properties left out there with 1704 protections," he said. "We need to try to negotiate the best possible protections for those lands."

Blues for Barton

Such temporizing is unlikely to satisfy the hard-core opponents of the AMD move, and it's likely we'll see a court fight before the bulldozers begin serious churning. As it stands, the environmental opposition can claim a victory of sorts, in that the site plan finally adopted by AMD goes about as far as possible in environmental safeguards. Whether that victory will be finally a pyrrhic one, and the AMD move in fact will mark the tipping point for this region's protection of the northern end of the Edwards Aquifer, the contributing streams, and Barton Springs eternal, is something we are unlikely to know for certain, even long after the deluge. As Lightnin' Hopkins used to sing, "You don't miss your water, 'til your well runs dry." ■



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BEYOND CITY LIMITS

▶ In what could be one of the highest turnover rates for legislators in recent memory, another veteran lawmaker is hanging up his spurs. Senior Sen. **Ken Armbrister**, D-Victoria, announced last week that he would not seek re-election in 2006. Armbrister had been rumored to be retiring from the state Senate seat he first won in 1986, after serving two terms in the House. The conservative Democrat chairs the Texas Senate's Natural Resources Committee and has carried a number of Austin-bashing bills on behalf of developers looking to skirt local environmental laws. While fewer lawmakers are opting out of seeking re-election on the Senate side, more than a dozen House members — many of them powerful committee chairs — have said they would bail out once their terms end next year. In the House particularly, Republicans and Democrats alike bemoan that making sausage just isn't fun anymore, now that partisan politics has become a blood sport under the current GOP leadership. Armbrister has not said what he will do after leaving office. — A.S.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has appointed nine state senators to serve on a select committee on **school finance**. The panel of six Republicans and three Democrats will make recommendations to the full Senate on a plan that ideally would add resources to classrooms, cut property taxes, and close business tax loopholes. The committee will act independently of another panel assembled by Gov. Rick Perry to study tax structure changes. The Senate and House initially planned to form a joint committee on school finance, but House Speaker Tom Craddick changed his mind after a Texas Supreme Court ruling on the state's long-running school finance case. Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, will lead the Senate committee, which includes Sens. Kip Averitt, R-McGregor; Kim Brimer, R-Fort Worth; Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock; Juan Hinojosa, D-McAllen; Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville; Steve Ogden, R-Bryan; Royce West, D-Dallas; and Tommy Williams, R-the Woodlands. Perry is expected to call a special session on school finance after the March primary elections. — A.S.

▶ In what is hopefully not an omen of things to come in Pasadena, Texas, lost to California this week, when the U.S. Department of Energy awarded the \$512 million contract to manage the **Los Alamos National Laboratory** to the University of California at Berkeley. Berkeley had been running the show at the nation's nuclear lab for 60 years, but this year Congress decided that six decades without a competitive bid was just long enough. Over the protests of burnt-orange peaceniks who wanted to keep the university nuke-free, and after much backing and forth about whether or not it would go ahead with the bid, UT finally teamed up with Lockheed Martin, the Bethesda, Md.-based weapons contractor, to write its ultimately losing bid. Nonproliferation watchdogs welcomed the decision. Opponents of the bid liked the decision as well, but raised concerns over Berkeley's partnering with San Francisco-based Bechtel, a private corporation — the nation's nuclear lab, they say, is no place for a profit motive — and over what we're doing stockpiling nukes anymore, anyway. — Rachel Proctor May

▶ The city of Tomball has adopted a new nondiscrimination policy and has agreed to have groups that rent city property for public events sign a **"contract of nondiscrimination"** as conditions of settling a federal civil rights suit brought by three activists and the Texas Civil Rights Project. The agreement brings to end a lawsuit filed earlier this year after members of the KKK on June 11 refused to allow Corey Irving and Chris O'Toole, who are black, and Rona Smith, who is Jewish, into a KKK event at the city-owned Tomball Community Center because of their race and religion. "We stood up for our rights and won," O'Toole said. "Now everybody can be treated fairly and equally and the KKK won't get away with legalized segregation." — Jordan Smith

▶ What's the difference between finding a pebble in your soup and a turd in your eggs? Nothing, if you're a Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmate. At least that appears to be the opinion of federal Magistrate Judge Judith Guthrie, who ruled Dec. 8 that David Trevino, an inmate at TDCJ's Michael Unit, could not bring a federal civil rights case against the prison based on "the deprivation of a single meal because it purportedly contained feces," she wrote. According to paperwork filed by Trevino, correction officers at the prison **tainted his food with feces** as part of a series of ongoing harassing incidents. In dismissing Trevino's case, Guthrie acknowledged that the law provides that the prison system must "furnish its prisoners with reasonably adequate food," that is "well balanced and containing nutritional value to preserve health." However, she noted further, the fact that food "occasionally contains foreign objects" does not amount to a "constitutional deprivation." In short, she said that, if the guards had indeed put feces in Trevino's food, and, presumably, even if he could prove it — which he couldn't, because he didn't save the evidence — "the allegations can be viewed as an isolated prank" and thus merely an "isolated incident of non-remarkable proportions." — J.S.

▶ Gov. Rick Perry granted two **pardons for innocence** on Dec. 22 after DNA testing proved the two individuals were not guilty. Perry granted the pardons for Keith Edward Turner and Entre Nax Karage based upon the Board of Pardons and Paroles' unanimous recommendations. Turner was convicted in 1983 for a Dallas County rape and sentenced to 20 years in prison; DNA testing was not available at the time of his conviction. Karage was convicted in 1997 for the murder in Dallas of his 14-year-old girlfriend and was sentenced to life in prison. The Dallas Co. trial court ordered his release from prison in March 2004, however, after DNA found on the girlfriend's body matched that of a convicted sex offender. — J.S.

▶ Social service providers are worried that the **Health and Human Services Commission's** refusal, so far, to seek a federal waiver on processing applications through its new call centers could mean an unwarranted delay in the processing of food stamp applications. Under federal law, a food stamp application is valid the moment it is signed, but that validity is in limbo until a signature — or, in the case of the application over the Internet, an e-signature — is affixed to the form. The state's new application process, which will rely heavily on phone calls to call centers, won't have that luxury. The agency says it is still working out the details with the US Department of Agriculture to approve "telephonic signatures" and, signature or not, the overall processing of food stamp applications will be quicker for needy families under the new system. Social service providers, led by the Center for Public Policy Priorities, say the state has turned down an easy waiver being offered by USDA and that any delay in the date the application is "stamped" as signed means a delay in the effective date and cuts to family benefits. The state's new call centers, which will roll out across regions of the state over the first 11 months of 2006, will begin operation in Austin-San Marcos in January. — Kimberly Reeves

▶ Congress took more than three months to pass an education funding package in the wake of **hurricanes Katrina and Rita**. The \$1.6 billion package, which addresses both K-12 and post-secondary education, will fund up to \$6,000 per displaced student in public, private, and parochial schools. That voucherlike component — sending federal dollars directly to private and parochial schools — is a first for the federal government and was vehemently opposed by many in the public education lobby. Public education lobbyists, including the American Federation of Teachers, also protested the fact that private schools were given an edge in federal restart dollars. Instead of divvying up funding based upon the number of students or amount of devastation — the original language of the Senate version of the bill — funding will be divided strictly based upon the number of schools, regardless of how few students are enrolled in the school. In a statement after the bill's passage last week, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings pledged to disburse the funding as quickly as possible. — K.R.

▶ Attorney General Greg Abbott issued a ruling last week that struck down a provision in recent legislation to designate legitimate **low-cost Canadian pharmacies**. An amendment to Senate Bill 410, passed last session by Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, would have empowered the state's pharmacy board to designate legitimate, versus fraudulent, Canadian pharmacies. Abbott's ruling said such a task would be facilitating the importation of drugs across the border, a violation of federal law. While the Texas Pharmacy Association applauded the move, saying it supported safe drugs, Hochberg called the ruling bad news for senior citizens. "Senior citizens are not going to wait for a permission slip from the Attorney General before they shop for prescription drugs they can afford," Hochberg said. "Our amendment to SB 410, which passed almost unanimously in the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor, helps seniors protect themselves from dangerous fraudulent suppliers." — K.R.

▶ In other AG news, the deficit-reduction bill just passed by Congress means Abbott's **child-support division** will lose almost a third of its funding starting in 2007, a measure that will most certainly mean agency job cuts if the state doesn't step up to fill in the gap. Cuts to state funding are estimated to be \$70 million a year over the next three budget years, against an annual division budget of \$230 million. Specifically, the cuts come from the elimination of federal match funds for incentive pay. That means the better a state performs its child support duties, the more cuts it faces. That especially irked Republican Abbott, who sent out a statement saying the new federal policy punished Texas for its success. The state agency will explore every possible option before turning to job cuts to handle the federal funding shortfall, spokeswoman Janece Rolfe said. — K.R.

▶ The **Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute** has named a new crop of directors to its board. They include Oliver Bell, CEO of Global Labor & Employment Strategies Inc., and member of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice; Jeff Bonham, lobbyist for CenterPoint Energy; Tim Dunn, CEO of Midland-based Crownquest Oil & Gas, LLC; Lisa Elledge, lobbyist for Wal-Mart Stores Inc.; state Rep. Bill Keffer, R-Dallas; Diane Rath, chair, Texas Workforce Commission; John Riley, environmental lawyer (representing industry) with Vinson & Elkins, LLP; and Jared Wolfe, executive director of the Texas Association of Health Plans, an HMO lobbying group. The TCCRI promotes less government, free enterprise, and so-called traditional values. — A.S.

▶ What does Texans for Public Justice's **Craig McDonald** have in common with Mick Jagger and Cindy Sheehan? All three appear on *Rolling Stone* magazine's year-end list of 15 Mavericks of 2005 — McDonald for mining mountains of documents and setting into motion the criminal investigation that led to the indictment of former U.S. House Majority Leader **Tom DeLay**. "Craig is an extraordinarily determined investigator," Ralph Nader told *Rolling Stone*. McDonald prefers to share the credit with other campaign finance watchdogs who also brought the peculiar paper trail forward. "It takes a village to slay a dragon," he told the magazine. — A.S.

▶ U.S. Rep. **Lloyd Doggett** filed for re-election Tuesday at Texas Democratic Party headquarters for what will be the Austin Democrat's seventh term. Unlike his last run as a target of Tom DeLay's redistricting maneuvers, Doggett this time has a clear, easy shot at returning to his post in the oddly shaped 25th Congressional district. That's not to say he won't have a Republican opponent. First-time candidate and noninsider **Edward Mokrzycki** has filed to run for the seat. — A.S.

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Are Partiers Dimming the 37th Street Lights?

Eighty-four-year-old **Ray Pine** was disappointed when he saw a woman walk past his house on **37th Street** during the Christmas season last year with a baby in one hand and a beer in the other.

For about 20 years, 37th Street dwellings on the block just east of Guadalupe have featured elaborate, complex, and occasionally ludicrous **Christmas light displays**. People's changing attitudes toward Christmas, however, has in recent years cheapened and commercialized the season, Pine said, resulting in Christmas on 37th Street being treated differently than in years past: "as a holiday when people get drunk, making a Sixth Street out of it," as he put it. Last year, for example, he said he filled three yard-waste bags with beer cans and bottles he picked up outside his and neighbors' homes during the first week of his street's annual lights extravaganza.

The party attitude toward the neighborhood has extended in recent years beyond the holidays as well, said Pine, who, since 1947, has owned 12 houses on the street, which he often rented to students. Each house had a stipulation in its rental contract warning that if Pine had to be called more than twice about noise disturbances, the tenant got kicked out. Other property owners had similar stipulations in their rental contracts, but not any more, said Pine — who has gradually sold off his remaining properties, including his own house, and recently moved into a retirement home.

Area residents tend to agree that the neighborhood is changing. They say houses packed full of students — prone to loud, late-night partying, scattered trash, and hordes of poorly parked cars — are more of a problem than ever before, and they want the **city occupancy limits** of up to six unrelated individuals in a single-family zoned house reduced. The entire area was rezoned with new land use maps in the summer of 2004 under the **Central Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan**. Within the plan, neighbors designated an area close to UT, known as the **University Neighborhood Overlay**, to be the desired area for student density and affordable housing. That area doesn't include 37th Street, note neighbors, who insist they're not anti-student nor anti-density. The neighborhood simply needs occupancy buffers to preserve its character, they say.

Mary Gay-Maxwell, a past president of the **North University Neighborhood Associ-**

ation, said it's the families and owner occupants "who keep the neighborhood stable" since students are a transient population by nature. "Without a change, this area will turn into another West Campus student ghetto," Gay-Maxwell said.

Among other residents, **Scott Barnes**, co-president of NUNA, hopes decreasing occupancy in the area's old houses to three or four people will curb what he called "frat-mentality" housing arrangements. Barnes, who has lived on 35th, just south of the Christmas light extravaganza, since 1989, began to suspect earlier this year that the previous peaceful coexistence between homeowners and student renters was beginning to deteriorate when, he said, a drunken college student called him a "faggot" after he asked the student not to park in his driveway. Barnes said he's considering a move to Georgetown's historic district, balancing cheaper real estate with a longer commute.

Austin native **Frankie Estrada**, a UT finance major who has lived on 37th for two years, said he doesn't think things are any worse than other university-area neighborhoods and that some noise should be expected. "I bartend so I get home around 2:30 or 3am on Thursdays and weekends, when you'd think it would be loud, but it isn't at all," he said. While a lower occupancy limit might help the street's crowdedness, it wouldn't have any impact on noise and student behavior, Estrada said, admitting that he and his roommate — who now share a three-bedroom bungalow after their third, nonstudent roommate moved out — may be among the loudest on the street.

Neighbors partly blame changes in the neighborhood on irresponsible and **absentee landlords**. "We didn't demand all we could get from the houses," Pine said. Now, eager to reap the highest rents possible from the maximum number of tenants, greedy landlords are letting "kids get away with murder and won't do anything about it," he complained. The street's foil-covered, light-packed main attraction home belongs to light display co-founder **Jamie Lipman** and his wife, **Sharon Smith**. Last holiday season, Lipman was involved in a fight with three young men during what he called "one of the street's numerous outdoor drinking parties." Lipman said he was "beaten upon" when he inter-



JOHN ANDERSON

vened to stop a college-aged male from running up and down 37th, "harassing people" and "humping cars."

Both Barnes and Gay-Maxwell pointed to a growing number of California home addresses popping up on the area tax rolls, a phenomenon reported all over Austin. When the house next door to Barnes sold and was immediately offered for rent, he said the realtor told him it went to a West Coast actress, and that **California real estate mavens** were being advised to sell off their pricey sunshine state holdings and park their money in Austin's market to cash in on anticipated rising property values. Gay-Maxwell worried that some California investors are buying for the sole purpose of packing the homes with six unrelated renters. She and other neighbors recently met with City Manager **Toby Futrell** about this and other neighborhood occupancy concerns. "The city must look at the infrastructure they need to provide in dense areas to manage thousands of 18 to 24-year-olds beneficially and think about what it means to densify beyond putting more people close to town," Gay-Maxwell said.

Barnes — who counted five homes that have changed hands this year on 37th Street, compared to what he said is usually one — is concerned about homeowner flight, and is dismayed as more homes are swooped up by investors. "Unfortunately, that's the free mar-

ket system at work. If someone wants to buy a house in a desired area, which this is, they're going to do everything to maximize their investment," said **Lucy Gallahan**, zoning review manager for the city's **Watershed Protection and Development Review**, adding that a change in occupancy limits would ultimately have to go through City Council. Council Member **Betty Dunkerley** said she'd "be willing to consider" an occupancy change, but that it would be difficult to enforce. An occupancy limit could only be implemented citywide and would require an intense impact evaluation, Dunkerley said. Like Barnes, Dunkerley noted that occupancy measures would need to be carefully crafted, so as not to target migrant workers and low-income families, who often share homes in town.

This year's sparkling, car-packed 37th Street light display is just a little less dazzling than in years past, thanks to about five vacant houses and the relocation of some longtime participants. That hasn't stopped smiley-faced crowds from seeking electrified yuletide enchantment, however. What remains to be seen is whether a combination of neighborhood strategy and city lawmaking can dictate where party-prone student renters reside any more than a hodgepodge of community involvement and local law can control a beer-drinking mom looking at Christmas lights.

— Daniel Mottola

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Endangered Spider Spooks the Feds

The **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** announced this week it will not add a rare cave spider, **Cicurina cueva**, to the federal list of officially endangered species. The agency's justification? *C. cueva* does not actually exist. Proponents of listing the tiny, eyeless troglobite disagree, and say that by blowing off its legal responsibility to assess the threats facing the spider that lives in a pair of caves in southwest Travis County, the FWS is simply weaving a web of illegal deceit.

"The USFWS ruling on our petition is a politically motivated, scientifically brainless bag job by the Bush administration," said **Mark Kirkpatrick**, a UT biologist who, along with **Colin Clark** of **Save Our Springs Alliance**, wrote the petition to list *C. cueva*, and who also wrote the petition to list the **Barton Springs Salamander**. "They tried – and failed – to prevent listing the salamander, and they'll fail this time, too."

The attempt to list *C. cueva* has been tendentious from the get-go. When FWS receives a petition to list a species, it is required to announce within 90 days whether further study is warranted, after which it has 12 months to decide whether or not a species is endangered. On the *C. cueva* petition, the FWS missed the initial 90-day deadline, and ended up with a court-ordered deadline of Dec. 8 to deliver the 12-month finding. Under the **1973 Endangered Species Act**, the purpose of the 12-month finding is to determine whether a species is endangered because of five factors: habitat loss, overuse, disease or predation, the inadequacy of existing regulation, or "other natural or manmade factors" affecting the species' survival.

The 12-month finding on *C. cueva* did not address any of these factors: instead, it detailed a \$50,000 genetic study the FWS commissioned showing that the species thought to be *C. cueva* was actually the same species as two other closely related spiders, which provided some neat legal sleight-of-hand to deny the listing. "On the basis of this review, we find that listing *C. cueva* is not warranted because *C. cueva* does not meet the definition of a 'species' under this act," is how the official notice in the Dec. 19 **Federal Register** put it.

That reclassification instantly extended the known range of the spider the agency is now referring to as the "**C. cueva complex**" to 24 caves rather than two, a fact that suggests its fate is not quite as dire as if it lived in two caves and two caves only. However, that doesn't address the fundamental mission of the 12-month review: determining whether or not the spider – in two caves or 24 – is endangered. According to **Robert Pine** of the Austin FWS office, after putting all that research into mitochondrial DNA and other hifalutin' genetic taxonomy, the agency just plain didn't have the money for a threat analysis. Or the time – the agency was facing a court-ordered deadline to deliver that 12-month finding. "If it turned

out that a significant number of those caves had imminent threats, it could still be a listable species," Pine said. "That kind of threat analysis hasn't been done by the Service."

The decision not to analyze threats wasn't for lack of knowledge that threat could be imminent: In comments submitted in August (after the May completion of the genetic study proposing the one-species hypothesis), **SOS Alliance** argued that whether the spiders were found in two, 24, or 50 caves, the whole area is in danger of cave-paving development. The group continued to advocate special protection for **Flint Ridge Cave**, one of the two caves described in the original petition: The group considers it one of the two most important recharge features in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer, and as a big, deep cave, it pro-



DOUG POTTER

vides particularly prime spider habitat even if a couple dozen other less-handsome caves do exist. Flint Ridge Cave also faces the most immediate threat: It is adjacent to the planned extension of SH 45, putting it at ground zero for the kind of water pollution, noise, and general disturbance that degrade and destroy ecosystems. (To add insult to injury, the area surrounding the cave was originally purchased by the city as part of the **Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan**, but Travis County subsequently acquired its right-of-way for the highway.)

The battle is by no means over – Pine at FWS said with a sigh that he expected a threat analysis would be forthcoming "if we got sued." However, an anti-ESA climate at the federal level – as evidenced

by the ESA overhaul passed by the House that would compensate property owners for lost hypothetical profits from habitat protection – suggests the fight will be long and it will not be easy. After all, only 17 species were listed as endangered in the first five years of the Bush administration, compared to 158 under four years of Bush I and 345 under eight years of Clinton.

– Rachel Proctor May

HOUSTON TOAD CLINGS TO SURVIVAL IN BASTROP

Residents of that so-called desired **development zone** east of Austin have one less reason to cheer about the building boom about to engulf them: A recent study named **Bastrop County** one of 595 "**centers of imminent extinction**" worldwide. In other words, unless dramatic new conservation efforts are immediately enacted, the study predicted a sad end to the three-decade effort to protect the endangered **Houston toad**.

The study was published in the Proceedings of the **National Academy of Science** and drew on data from the **World Conservation Union**. It cited habitat loss as the greatest threat to the amphibians, although habitat fragmentation and invasive species also take their toll as toads also get squished by cars, lose native grasses in which they like to hop about, and, in what is potentially the most pitiful fate that could befall an amphibian, preyed


upon by fire ants. (The fire ants, which are not native to Texas, also kill insect populations the toads like to eat.) Although the toad was the first amphibian to make the federal endangered species list nearly 30 years ago, barely 2,000 toads are known to remain, concentrated around Bastrop and Buescher state parks, where – despite their idyllic address – their population has shown continued declines. Although toads used to be found in several other East Texas counties, the study reported that sightings have grown increasingly rare, and more research is needed into the fate of toad populations outside Bastrop County.

Locally, some promising efforts are under way. **Envision Central Texas** has called for concentrating development throughout the five-county central Texas region in a way that protects as much rural and open space as possible. Meanwhile, Bastrop County landowners and conservationists have been working




U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE


with the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** to develop a habitat conservation plan to facilitate broad participation in toad protection efforts. According to **Tom Dureka** of the **Pines and Prairies Land Trust**, however, the plan is a good year-and-a-half away from enactment. Still, he believes every effort is necessary to protect the creature he prefers to call the Lost Pines Toad (since it has long since been eradicated in Houston). "Frankly, this is the last bastion on the planet for the amphibian," he said. "It's up to us to ensure its survival or witness its final collapse." – Rachel Proctor May







Formerly known as the Distinguished Speaker Series, Spark: KLRU's Engaging Speakers Series presents award-winning journalist Dan Rather at the Paramount Theatre on January 9 at 7:30 p.m. Order tickets at the Paramount box office or klru.org/spark





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Rail Revival?

Much has been made of Capital Metro's potential plans to add spurs to its modest Leander-to-downtown commuter **rail line**, but an even bigger rail project looms on the horizon for Central Texas as the **Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District** considers its options for funding a far more ambitious rail corridor.

The local Leander line pales in comparison to the proposed **Austin-San Antonio rail line**, which could take commuters all the way from Georgetown to downtown San Antonio on a **Union Pacific freight corridor** with 15 stops. Such a rail line, unlike Capital Metro's venture, does not require a vote of the people and could be funded entirely as a **public-private partnership** between the rail district and developers around the rail stations. The estimated cost of the venture is 10 times that of Capital Metro's rail line: \$615 million to both secure the line and provide initial operating expenditures.

The creation of the Austin-San Antonio line is a tricky task. This is the line that would require Union Pacific to vacate its **freight rail line down MoPac** and shift freight traffic over to the **SH 130 corridor**. Sid Covington, chair of the rail district board, told his members at a recent meeting that Union Pacific was open to negotiations and he was confident such a strategy could be achieved, possibly by 2010. Double-tracking within the freight rail's right of way also is an option on the table.

Once the train cars pass Austin on the Union Pacific line, they're on a track that goes through Buda, Kyle, and New Braunfels. At San Antonio, the rail line splits and the Austin-San Antonio rail corridor could pick up both a line past the airport into downtown San Antonio and an east-side route that board members support for its economic potential in an area of San Antonio that sorely needs redevelopment.

Two aspects of the project are currently on track. First is an updated **feasibility study** by **Carter & Burgess**, slated for completion next spring. An initial alternatives analysis,

completed in 1999, is considered out-of-date. This alternatives analysis is a requirement of the **federal New Starts program**, an initiative of the **Federal Transportation Administration** that provides seed money for urban rail lines. Even the strongest backers of the Austin-San Antonio route, like rail district President **Ross Milloy**, agree the chances of federal funding are slim given the widespread competition for the limited dollars. A second federal funding program, targeted at creation of commuter rail lines in the Southwest, is another potential source of funding, Milloy said.

The local Leander line pales in comparison to the proposed Austin-San Antonio rail line, which could take commuters all the way from Georgetown to downtown San Antonio on a Union Pacific freight corridor with 15 stops.

That leads to the second task at hand, an assessment of the **potential economic impact** around the 15 stations along the route. Consultant **Charles Heimsath** of **Capitol Market Research** is completing that study, looking at each station individually for its development potential. If local jurisdictions agree, tax-increment finance districts around each station could capture incremental increases in value to fund the creation and operation of the rail line. Or the rail district could, as board member **Fred Harless** pointed out, buy up undeveloped land around the various stations and hammer out agreements with developers to share the cost of the rail line in exchange for access to station land. That's a strategy that Capital Metro has used to defray the cost of its line.

Heimsath's early economic impact figures, based on a dozen stations, project a potential \$353 million in tax dollars over 25 years, which bodes well for the rail district. Heimsath's full report should be available some time early next year. — Kimberly Reeves



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS:

STARTRAN DECLARES IMPASSE AGAINST UNION

Last week, **Capital Metro**'s largest contractor, **StarTran**, announced it would impose most aspects of the company's self-defined "last, best, and final offer" on the 800-plus members of **Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1091**. The union and StarTran have been embroiled in bitter negotiations for eight months, their disagreements culminating Sept. 22 in a one-day strike against what the union calls unfair labor practices. While 1091's members have voted to authorize a strike, the cooling rhetoric on both sides, coupled with the delayed reaction in implementing the measures, make a strike unlikely until StarTran formally imposes its offer, scheduled for Jan. 1. (StarTran was created by Capital Metro to preserve the legal bargaining rights – under federal law – of the previously formed union, which the transit authority is legally prohibited from bargaining with – under state law.)

"It's not really far apart compared to where we were," said StarTran President **Kent McCulloch**; their proposal to lower starting pay for new hires has changed markedly since first proposed, but is still contentious. Bus operators are currently salaried on a wage-progression scale, whereby, starting at 75% of the maximum hourly wage (\$18.56), they take four years to reach it; StarTran will now start new operators at 60%, then allow an employee to reach top wages in his or her sixth year of employment. StarTran's original proposal was a literal "two-tier" system – increasingly an issue in the transit industry – under which newly hired operators could never reach the top pay of those already employed. Although StarTran has moved away from the two-tier model, its replacement proposal remains unacceptable to many union members. As an alternative, the union proposes a 65% opening wage, and a five-year progression to top pay. That's closer than the two sides have been thus far, but the difference remains unresolved.

Several other aspects of StarTran's proposal are slated for January implementation, some agreed upon previously in negotiations but not yet part of a contract: They include a zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy (Capital Metro's other contractors, the largely union-free Connex, and UT shuttle contractor First Transit already have a zero-tolerance policy in place), changes to incentive bonuses, overtime calculations, and excused absences for long-term illness.

StarTran has decided not to act on two contentious issues, leaving them as-is for now: health care benefits and current employee rais-



es. Both parties are in agreement that health care costs are paramount; StarTran proposes to retain full insurance coverage for its employees, while raising the employee contribution for dependent coverage. The company also proposes cutting annual employee raises from 4% to 2%, a cut that was acceptable to the union if the company also bundled an additional 1% into a savings account for health expenses. StarTran hasn't decided (or declared) whether it will act on either of these issues in the near future. While no further meetings between StarTran and ATU 1091 were scheduled over the holidays, McCulloch told the *Chronicle*, "I imagine at some time there'll be more talks."

StarTran insists it must implement cost-saving measures because of declining or stagnant sales tax revenues. (Cap Metro relies for financing primarily on a one-cent portion of local sales taxes, and acknowledges that in recent months sales tax revenues have begun to rebound after several declining years). **Andrea Lofye**, Capital Metro spokeswoman, says if wages and health care benefits remained on their current tracks, "they would consume the whole penny sales tax." The union and its supporters, on the other hand, noting the rebound in revenues following Austin's tech crash, charge that StarTran's cost-cutting measures are an attempt to pay for Cap Metro's ambitious commuter rail program.

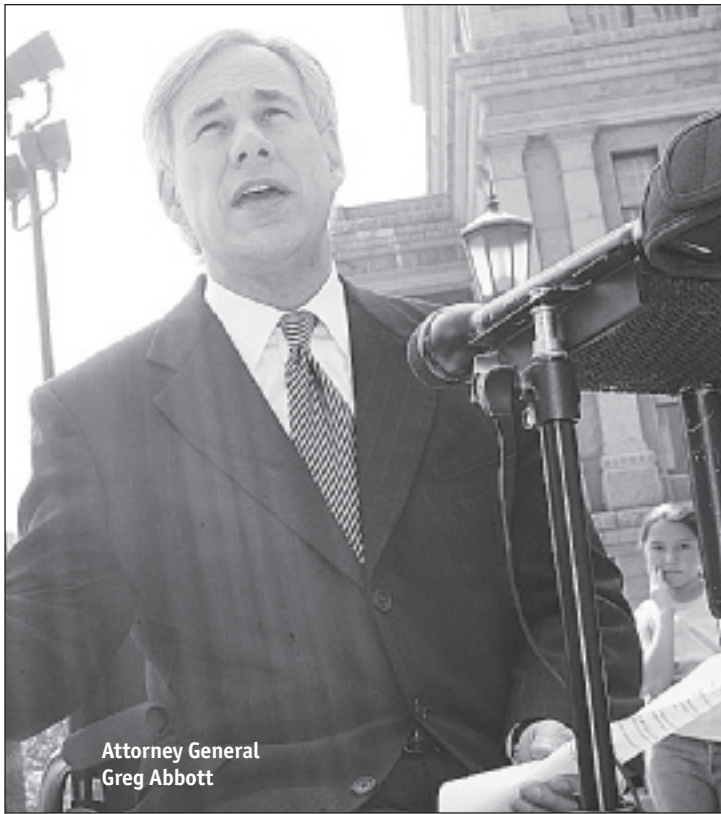
– Wells Dunbar

ABBOTT EXPANDS SONY SPYWARE SUIT

Texas Attorney General **Greg Abbott** on Dec. 21 socked **Sony BMG Music Entertainment** with additional allegations related to a rogue spyware program contained on thousands of copies of 52 music titles. Last month Abbott filed the first-ever suit under Texas' newly enacted **Consumer Protection Against Computer Spyware Act** of 2005 against Sony, alleging that in the course of trying to prohibit unfettered copying of copyrighted music, the company caused consumers to unwittingly install cloaked files that offer hackers and identity thieves easy access to personal information. In the course of trying to prevent illegal copying, Abbott said, "It turns out that Sony BMG is the one acting illegally." Last week, Abbott amended his suit, to allege violations of Texas' **Deceptive Trade Practices Act**, including that Sony misrepresented that its "goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade," when in fact they are not. In part, Abbott's amended suit alleges that instead of installing the cloaked files onto a consumer's computer only *after* the user has agreed to an End User License Agreement, the spyware files are actually installed onto the computer whether or not a consumer agrees to the EULA's terms. "We keep discovering additional methods Sony used to deceive Texas consumers who thought they were simply buying music," Abbott said. "Thousands of Texans are now potential victims of this deceptive game Sony played with consumers for its own purposes." Abbott has also penned a letter to Texas retailers warning that continuing to sell the infected CDs titles – including discs from Phish frontman Trey Anastasio, Earl Scruggs, and Celine Dion – the retailers run the risk of becoming defendants in the pending suit.

Each violation of the DTPA is punishable by a maximum \$20,000 fine; each violation of the CPACS is punishable by up to \$100,000. For more on the lawsuit, go to www.oag.state.tx.us.

– Jordan Smith



Attorney General
Greg Abbott

LAKEWAY:

DESPERATE SUBURBANITES IN ZONING WAR

While not quite the stuff of Wisteria Lane – not yet, anyway – a battle is quietly brewing in **Lakeway**, the preened and polished enclave nestled to Austin's northwest.

A series of showdowns began in 2003 when the affluent Lake Travis community was facing the property owner's worst neighboring nightmare (except perhaps the dreaded auto body shop): the big box. When Wal-Mart proposed building a store, citizens sprang into action and formed **Lakeway First**, placing a nonbinding resolution on the September 2003 ballot against commercial buildings larger than 100,000 square feet. Handily winning (over 70%), the resolution was subsequently adopted into law by Lakeway's City Council; Wal-Mart went home boxless, the neighboring property values were untouched, and all was right with the suburbs. Until now.

While some retirement homes follow the Wal-Mart model – low overhead, staffed by wage-slaves scrambling for cleanup on aisle A-12 – that's not the proposed **Summit at Lakeway**. A project of the **American Retirement Corporation**, this ain't no ordinary old-folks home – it's five stories of octogenarian opulence, 200 apartments, and 30 "villas" designed for independent living, with plans for outlying town houses and homes. While the grandiosity would seemingly echo the spirit of Lakeway, for some residents, the scale of the project – at 252,000 square feet larger than the proposed Wal-Mart – does not. They believe their family homes would be dwarfed by the complex. (The ARC site straddles the line between Lakeway and the **Village of the Hills** – a more exclusive private community built around the Hills Country Club, and its sprawling, golf course, co-designed by none other than Jack Nicklaus.)

The fact that the ARC is already trumpeting its arrival in the early fall of 2006 has some even angrier, saying Lakeway's officials have reneged on their promises. The fight began over interpretation of the resolution council passed two years ago – when the Beast from Bentonville was lurking, the resolution allowed for a big-box ban, but only on commercial buildings. While city officials in Lakeway may be following the letter of the law in permitting the ARC project, some complain they're not adhering to the spirit. That was until a November Zoning and Planning commission meeting, where Lakeway's city attorney said the size of the project violates the community's existing building ordinances.

As it stands right now, the ZAP commission is picking up the proposed development Jan. 4, with a rezoning request by the Summit up for consideration. If it passes the commission, it will head to Lakeway City Council for approval Jan. 17. Judging from the Lakeway flame-war burning up local e-mails, the meetings will be well attended and full of public thunder.

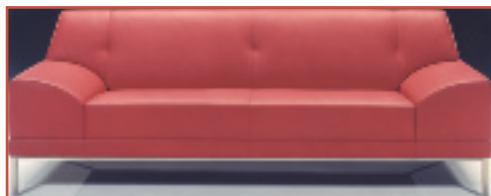
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The six-nugget kid's meal at Chik-fil-A (OK, so maybe there are more lurid pleasures, but none that I'd tell to perfect strangers – and none that I feel guilty about.)

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WEED WATCH

FEDS TRY STEALING XMAS FROM MEDI-POT DISPENSERS, HEMP GROWERS

DEA agents have been doing their very best impression of the Grinch this month by carrying out a string of raids at **medi-pot dispensaries** in San Diego and San Francisco, Calif. On Dec. 12, a contingent of agents simultaneously executed 13 warrants in **San Diego County**, seizing dozens of pounds of marijuana, computer equipment, and patient files from the store front operations that provide sick and dying medi-mari patients who use the drug in accordance with the state's **Compassionate Use Act**. Then, on Dec. 20, agents struck again, in an early-morning raid at the San Francisco home of **Steve and Cathy Smith** who run the **HopeNet** medi-pot dispensary, which, in part, subsidizes the cost of medi-pot for low-income patients. Agents seized 126 plants, cash, computers, and, possibly, patient files from the Smith's home, said **Hilary McQuie** with the medi-pot patients advocacy group **Americans for Safe Access**. News of the raid sparked a protest outside the HopeNet office, where approximately 100 patients stood in the rain staring down DEA agents who sat in their cars for several hours before leaving. Although the patients thought that meant victory, the agents returned at about 6pm, after the patients left, to raid the dispensary, said McQuie, after hitting HopeNet's warehouse facility where agents seized another 500 plants.

"I am totally in shock and bewildered," Steve Smith told the *San Jose Mercury-News*. "I don't know how I am going to take care of my patients. Some are dying right now."

Interestingly, the feds have yet to file criminal charges against any of the people involved with the San Diego or San Francisco operations. The December raids in California are the most high-profile busts the feds have undertaken since the **U.S. Supreme Court** ruled this summer that the government, under the **Commerce Clause**, may pursue medicinal marijuana patients, and their suppliers, for violating the **Controlled Substances Act**, which bans the use of marijuana. In **Gonzales v. Raich**, a majority of the court opined that because marijuana is illegal under federal law, even California's wholly intrastate medi-pot industry may actually

have some collateral effect – either positive or negative – on the **illegal trafficking of pot across state lines**, thus allowing the feds to stick their noses into what would otherwise be considered state business. In the years before **Angel Raich** filed suit against the government in an effort to ban their interference, the feds had been on a veritable rampage of medi-pot raids. While *Raich* was pending that activity slowed.

Since the June decision, things have been relatively quiet – at least until last week. To McQuie, the raids feel like attempts at **federal intimidation**. "But it's not working," she said, noting that many of the dispensaries shut down by the San Diego action were open for business the very next day. "There is a need," she said. "If they close one [dispensary], another will open. So [this strategy] isn't going to work."

While federal drug cops in California have been busy taking medi-pot away from sick people, feds in South Dakota last week continued their quest to deny a group of American Indians on the **Pine Ridge Reservation** the ability to grow and sell **industrial hemp**. On Dec. 12, lawyers for **Alex White Plume** and members of his **Lakota Nation** family argued that the family should have a chance to challenge the DEA's assertion that they must first obtain government permission to grow industrial hemp on the family's reservation land. From 1999 to 2002, the White Plumes planted their crop and each year federal narcos came onto the land and destroyed the plants, before the DEA in 2002 sought, and in late 2004 won, an injunction against the family, barring the White Plumes from planting hemp without DEA approval. According to the government, hemp – which contains only trace amounts of **tetrahydrocannabinol**, the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, and as such is not grown or sold as a consumable drug – is equal to marijuana and is thus prohibited under the **Controlled Substances Act**. As such, according to the DEA, the White Plumes are barred from growing industrial hemp, which is commonly used in food, body care products, and numerous consumer textile products.

Ironically, hemp farming was perfectly legal in the U.S. until the 1970s (when changes to the CSA made continued cultivation untenable), and the feds actually encouraged hemp farming during **World War II**. As it stands, the U.S. is now the only "developed" nation without an "established" hemp crop, according to a report released this spring by the **Congressional Research Service**. So far, the DEA's skewed view of what constitutes a "drug" is the only real obstacle standing between farmers and hemp seeds. According to the DEA,

hemp farming would somehow increase the "covert production" of narcotic marijuana, which in turn would hinder their (otherwise successful?) war on drugs.

Ostensibly, the DEA allows for controlled hemp farming – but only by permit, and the agency has awarded a total of one (which has since expired) to growers in Hawaii – and has yet to rule on several permit requests, including a 6-year-old application filed by a North Dakota researcher. As such, the White Plumes' lawyers argue, the DEA's insistence that the Lakota need permission to continue their Pine Ridge operation is simply ludicrous – a contention obviously not lost on members of the three-judge panel of the **8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals**, which is currently considering the White Plumes' appeal. Indeed, as it stands, products made from hemp are perfectly legal, but, because of the DEA and the CSA, hemp products manufactured in the U.S. are made from hemp that is legally imported from Canada and Europe. "It seems a little asinine to me" that hemp can be imported to, but not grown in the U.S., Judge **Arlen Beam** commented during oral arguments in St. Louis. "It doesn't make a lot of sense," he continued, that the government would think the Native American economy is "better enhanced" by casino gambling, than by "productively utilizing the land" by growing a sustainable commodity like hemp. Indeed, the White Plumes' recent attempts to grow hemp were part of a multiyear contract with two U.S. hemp companies, which would've brought the White Plume family approximately \$180,000 in income – quadrupling the family's current income on the Pine Ridge reservation where the unemployment rate hovers around 60%.

None of that is relevant, however, argued Assistant U.S. Attorney **Mark Salter**. "The reality is that hemp is marijuana," Salter said. And the White Plumes "never asked for permission." But the White Plumes say they simply don't need the DEA's permission to farm hemp on their land. The power to farm whatever crop they can was granted by two treaties, including the **Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868**, between the Lakota and the U.S. government, long before the DEA was even a twinkle in the federal eye. The Lakota have actually been farming hemp since the time of those treaties, argue the White Plumes' lawyers, and as such, the feds have no power to stop them now. In granting an injunction last year, attorney **David Frankel** argues, the court "completely ignored relevant Indian law, the treaties, [and] the Constitution."

A decision in the case is expected early next year.

– Jordan Smith

'TEXAS MONTHLY' STORY IRKS TORT REFORM GROUP

Texans for Lawsuit Reform is fighting mad at *Texas Monthly* over its November feature on tort reform, headlined "Hurt? Injured? Need a Lawyer? Too Bad!" Authored by Executive Editor **Mimi Swartz**, the article focused on the potential impact of **tort reform** on ordinary people, which sent TLR into a rhetorical tizzy.

"As published, the article reflects little serious research and no serious analysis, but is long on bombast and wrong on the law, wrong on the facts and devoid of balance," according to the organization's 12-page diatribe against the magazine posted on its Web site. The group also charged that the magazine is a tool of plaintiff lawyers, noting the "154 pages of paid 'Super Lawyers' vanity advertising in the magazine's October issue."

"We expected a magazine like *Texas Monthly* to aim higher than republishing the disinformation of a special interest group whose direct stake in legislation ranges well into the hundreds of millions of dollars (or, in the case of its most opulent members, billions)," according to the group's statement.

The magazine has responded by acknowledging two errors, but otherwise is sticking by the story.

"What they are alleging is massive mistakes and it's not true," Editor **Evan Smith** said. In fact, many

of the TLR's complaints focus on interpretations and nuances of the law, more than factual errors. "It's not a law review article," Smith said.

The magazine offered the group space in the magazine to respond, but refused to run TLR's lengthy manifesto. TLR came back with a shorter letter, but instead of attacking the article, the new submission was a "love letter to TLR," Smith says. To counter the group's accusations, the magazine posted an extensive point-by-point response to the TLR's statement online, tossing its own charges of bombast at the group.

"Sadly, TLR chose to direct most of its criticism toward minor matters, such as whether Swartz had described points of law to TLR's satisfaction, and to respond with bombast and indignation, rather than to engage in a discussion on the merits," according to the magazine's statement.

Of course, it is unlikely the group, which seeks to limit **frivolous lawsuits**, will attempt to sue, unless it has a heightened sense of irony. (A representative of the group did not return calls.) Smith says it is also unlikely the magazine will give TLR space in the next issue to respond to the response. "As far as I'm concerned it's over," he said.

For those a wee desperate for entertainment, the TLR's version of events can be found at **www.tortreform.com** and *Texas Monthly's* detailed response can be found at **www.texasmonthly.com/csc/webextra.php**.

– Kevin Brass

HUMAN SERVICES PRIVATIZER STUMBLES AGAIN

Accenture – the controversial Bermuda-based company hired by Texas to privatize a portion of the state's social services system – lost another contract with the state of Colorado last week for failing to deliver on millions of dollars worth of promises, according to news reports. It was the second time in less than a month that Colorado officials yanked two separate Accenture contracts.

Despite growing dissatisfaction with Accenture's work around the country – the company has had related performance problems in Florida, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada – it's still business as usual in Texas, where the **Health and Human Services Commission** tied the knot with Accenture last summer. The five-year contract will run the state nearly \$900 million.

The management consulting and technology company will put its outsourcing skills to work in Texas by setting up and running a handful of remote call centers, which are theoretically supposed to "improve" the way Texans apply for food stamps, Medicaid, children's health insurance, and other services. The privatization endeavor is expected to close about 100 community-based offices and slice nearly 3,000 HHSC jobs.

The **Texas State Employees Union**, meanwhile, has vowed to continue fighting what it calls a "radical experiment" – eliminating the human touch from social services operations. The union points to Colorado as another glaring example of the company's dismal performance record. In this case, Colorado officials dumped the company after spending \$35 million for a computer system on the blink. Before that, the state terminated another contact with Accenture for its poor performance on a computerized voter-registration system.

"Both of the cancelled Colorado contracts were to update and streamline systems, which is what HHSC says is the purpose of its call center scheme," said TSEU vice president **Mike Gross**, in a statement. "But instead of a new and improved way of delivering services, Colorado got systems that don't work." This, he added, should serve as a major warning to Texas. – Amy Smith

THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

TAKE CHENEY AWAY

It's time that we Americans finally admit the obvious: Dick Cheney is insane.

I say this with no malice, but in the sincere hope that his loved ones and close political cohorts will do the compassionate thing, gently leading him off the national stage to some quiet, dark, soft spot where he can rest for a very long time and try to collect his wits.

Of course, Dick has never been too tightly wrapped. He's a sour, snarly sort of guy, quick to snap at anyone who crosses him. Then there's that sneering smile of his, slashing across his face like the smile of a landlord who just evicted another widow. Also, we've long been exposed to a high level of Cheney's chronic sense of omnipotence (manifested in his blatant acts of cronyism with Halliburton) and to his frequent bouts of psychotic delusion (such as his maniacal insistence that the occupied people of Iraq would gratefully shower our troops with rose petals).

But recently, Dick seems to have gone from being merely unbalanced ... to unhinged. For example, he has been the twisted force so ferociously trying to stop Congress from declaring as official policy that the U.S. government will not engage in torture. Even the Republican-controlled senate voted 90 to 9 against torture, but this has not deterred Cheney, who has continued snarling and snapping like a mad dog to keep torture in the tool kit of American foreign policy.

Speaking of snapping, Dick has also been frothing at Democrats who've been making the obvious point that the Bush-Cheney regime misled the nation about its reasons for invading Iraq. He snarled that such Democrats are "dishonest and reprehensible," as well as "corrupt and shameless." Excuse us, Dick, but you've just attacked 57% of the American people, who now agree that you Bushites "deliberately misled" us about the war.

Cheney's favorable ratings are already down to 19%. Mad Cow disease ranks higher! Time to take Dick away.

IBM AND THE MIDDLE CLASS

The internal memo is dated April 2005 and tagged "IBM Confidential."

The reason for the hush-hush treatment is that this document is written confirmation of corporate America's intention to offshore our nation's middle-class future, shipping out jobs in engineering and other sciences that require advanced degrees and pay top wages. IBM, the world's largest information technology corporation, has become the leading practitioner of shopping the globe for the cheapest high-tech workers, knocking down the wage floor to the lowest common denominator.

Because of the wrenching economic, social, and political impacts this will have on U.S. society, IBM has not wanted to concede publicly that undermining middle-class opportunities is a corporate goal. This leaked memo, however, confirms that while the top honchos are cutting 13,000 of these high-tech jobs in America and Europe this year, it will add 14,000 in the low-wage tech centers of India.

Experienced software programmers in our country earn maybe \$75,000 a year, creating a sound middle-class base for our economy and communities. But to hell with such democratic notions of the Common Good, say the profiteers - we can replace American programmers with ones from India who'll do the work for \$15,000 a year. That's \$60,000 per job, per year, that the corporate and investor elites can take out of the middle class and put in their own pockets.

Adding insult to injury, a top IBM executive says that the corporate rush to India is not merely a chase for the cheapest workers, but "It's mostly about skills." He then proceeds to lecture America's high-tech workers: "You are no longer competing just with the guy down the street, but also with people around the world."

And there you have a sparkling clear statement of what corporate America thinks of you and has in store for you. How do its members think they'll hold a society together when they knock down all of our wages to \$15,000 a year?

Jim Hightower is the bestselling author of Let's Stop Beating Around the Bush, on sale from Viking Press. For more information, visit www.jimhightower.com.

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Bringing the War Home

No More Victims works for peace, one wounded child at a time

BY EMILY PYLE

At the time of this writing, 2,157 Americans have died since the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003. The number of Iraqis dead and injured, though undoubtedly much higher, is unknown. In fact, although President Bush recently offered an estimate of 30,000, both U.S. and Iraqi authorities have gone to considerable lengths to keep the precise number a mystery. In December of 2004, the Iraqi Health Ministry announced that it would no longer keep a tally of civilian deaths or injuries. Iraq Body Count, a London-based organization that bases its count on confirmed online media and eyewitness accounts, estimates between 27,500 and 31,000 dead, “resulting directly from military action by the USA and its allies.” The IBC also acknowledges, however, that its count is by definition low, since only confirmed and reported casualties are included. Although IBC doesn’t have the resources to know for certain, the organization gave an estimate of 42,000 wounded in a report issued last summer. Late last year, British medical journal *The Lancet* published a study broadly estimating 100,000 excess Iraqi deaths since the war began in 2003, most of those attributable to the U.S. air war. (See “The Iraqi Toll,” p.29.) About one in 10 casualties is a child under the age of 18.

“We’re very sheltered over here from the real consequences of what’s going on,” says Austin-based documentary photographer Alan Pogue, who has traveled to Iraq several times, before and after the invasion. Pogue is co-founder, along with L.A.-based freelance writer Cole Miller, of No More Victims, a nonprofit project which aims, quite literally, to bring the consequences of the war home. Since March 2003, Pogue and Miller have brought three Iraqi children harmed by U.S. military activity back to the United States for medical care. They hope soon to be bringing more. “The American public is odd,” Pogue says. “They seem to lack the imagination to know that you can’t indiscriminately bomb civilian areas without hurting civilians. I would like people to be confronted with the consequences of what’s going on.”

The project began with one Iraqi girl Pogue photographed on a bus in a tiny village in March 2000. Her right arm was an amputated stump, and Pogue knew she had been injured in a U.S. air strike. Pogue, who was in Iraq as a member of a Veterans for Peace effort to rebuild a water treatment plant, snapped the girl’s picture. For then, that was that.

Two years later, during the buildup to the invasion of Iraq, Cole Miller was looking for photographs to make a poster protesting the war. He contacted Pogue, whose photographs he had seen online. Pogue sent him the picture of the girl. It was perfect. Miller’s poster, which read, “Are you willing to kill her to get to Saddam?” was downloaded from his Web site tens of thousands of times, in nine different languages, and used in anti-war demonstrations all over the world. It’s not hard to see

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALAN POGUE

why. The girl’s eyes in the photograph draw you in.

Medical Sanctions

The picture haunted both Pogue and Miller, who became friends. They started to ask each other if it would be possible to learn the girl’s name, find her, do something for her. Later that year, Pogue returned to Iraq and, with the help of Iraqi contacts, learned that the girl’s name was Asra’a Amir Mizyad, and that she lived in the small village of Abu Floos. He also heard more of her story. Asra’a lost her arm when she was nine, in a 1999 U.S. missile attack that inexplicably targeted her small village as she was walking home from school. Pogue researched military and press accounts of the incident and discovered that the same plane fired another missile that morning, in nearby Basra. Two young brothers, Haider and Mostafa Dinar, were struck by the blast while walking to the candy store. Haider died. Six-year-old Mostafa lived, but his left hand was mangled, and several scraps of shrapnel lodged in his body, including one large piece near his

“You can’t indiscriminately bomb civilian areas without hurting civilians. I would like people to be confronted with the consequences of what’s going on.” – Alan Pogue

spine that doctors were afraid to remove.

Pogue and Miller contacted the families of Asra’a and Mostafa and began making plans to bring them to the U.S. for medical care. The Iraqi health care system – badly weakened by a decade of U.S. economic sanctions that limited access to basic medical supplies – was struggling to cope with the victims of the latest war. Bandages, painkillers, even bags to hold donated blood were at a premium. There was no prosthetics plant in the country capable of restoring Mostafa’s hand or Asra’a’s arm. “If their families had been able to get care for them,” Pogue says, “there was no care to get.” Pogue and Miller started making plans to get U.S. medical visas for Mostafa, Asra’a, and their families.

Meanwhile, the clock was running down as a U.S. invasion of Iraq became more and more of a certainty. In March 2003, Pogue and Miller flew to Amman, Jordan. The timing of the trip was terrible. As the invasion began, the bureaucratic maneuvering required to obtain medical visas to the U.S. became ever more intricate, and the two were running out of money. In the end, Mostafa and his mother were able



Scraps of shrapnel from a U.S. tank shell were embedded in 3-year-old Alaa’ Khalid Hamdan’s eyes, reducing her eyesight to almost nothing. Iraqi doctors believed she wouldn’t survive and were reluctant to waste scarce bandages; their hasty stitching left her abdominal wall incompletely rejoined. No More Victims brought her to Florida for additional treatment, including partial restoration of her eyesight.

to fly to Los Angeles where he received surgery to remove the shrapnel from his body, a prosthetic glove to cover his damaged hand, and post-traumatic counseling. Asra’a and her father had to be left behind in Iraq.

It was more than a year before they could return for her. Pogue and Miller flew to Kuwait City in September 2004. They had since received support in the U.S. Congress from Austin Rep. Lloyd Doggett and California Sen. Barbara Boxer, who called the embassy to press for visas to be extended to Asra’a and her father, Abdulameir Salman. It took five weeks for the paperwork to come through, but finally Pogue and Miller were able to bring Asra’a and Abdulameir to Houston, where Asra’a would be fitted for a prosthetic arm and taught to use it, pro bono, at the Shriners Hospital for Children.

Saving the World

With Asra’a and Mostafa cared for, Pogue and Miller believed their work had just begun. They started looking for records of other children injured by U.S. military actions, but medical records for civilian casualties proved elusive. According to Pogue, some Iraqi doctors say they’ve been ordered by the largely U.S.-controlled Iraq Health Ministry not to release such records. At one point, Pogue and Miller contacted several doctors through nonprofit Save the Children, which was collecting injured children’s medical records. Their contacts agreed to send them medical records for more than 70 children, along with photos and contact information. Then, abruptly, Miller received an e-mail saying that the records available probably didn’t match his requirements.

continued on p.28

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BORDERS

Medical records for six children did eventually arrive, all for children with congenital heart defects. “There’s been a tremendous effort to suppress this information,” Pogue says, “to just pretend that this isn’t happening, that no civilians have been hurt.”

Eventually, Pogue and Miller found other sources – which, for obvious reasons, they prefer not to disclose – with access to medical records of children harmed by U.S. military actions. They began posting photos of the victims, and descriptions of the injuries, to the No More Victims Web site. “The idea was, we’ll get something started and then it will spread,” Pogue says. “We’ll go back a few times, we’ll bring some of them out, and then it will be your turn.”

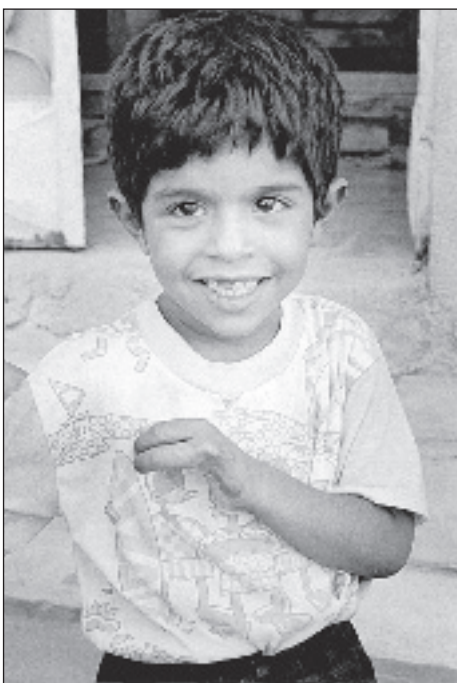
That plan is starting to bear fruit. Ashley Severance, a 22-year-old law student in Orlando, Florida, found the No More Victims Web site and the photos and descriptions of the injuries of 3-year-old Alaa’ Khalid Hamdan. Alaa’ was wounded when a U.S. tank shell blew through the wall of her home and exploded while she was playing with her brothers and cousins. Alaa’s father, Khalid Hamdan Abd, came home to find their bodies buried in rubble. Alaa’s two brothers were dead, along with three of her cousins. Khalid rushed his daughter to the hospital, where doctors were so certain she would die that they were reluctant to use their scarce supply of bandages on her

“I don’t think anyone who gets to know one of these children and their families is going to accept the idea of war in the same way again.” – Cole Miller

wounds. Giving in to Khalid’s pleading, doctors removed hundreds of shards of shrapnel from Alaa’s body and stitched her intestines back together. Against all expectations, Alaa’ lived. However, doctors didn’t have the delicate instruments required to remove the shrapnel from Alaa’s eyes, leaving her almost blind. Moreover, the hasty stitching of her abdominal wounds left her with a massive hernia, as her organs bulged through her incompletely joined abdominal wall.

Severance started making phone calls and found a doctor and hospital who would provide care for free. Alaa and Khalid flew to Orlando in November. This month, Alaa’ has had six surgeries on her eyes. While sight in her right eye may never be restored, doctors are very hopeful that her left eye will see again. An operation to reattach her left retina appears to have been successful. Last week, when Khalid turned out the lights in Alaa’s room, she asked him if there had been a power outage – apparently she can now see the difference between dark and light. In a few weeks, a month or two at most, she’ll be able to go home again.

Sending the children back to Iraq when their care is complete is hard, Pogue and Miller say. “You go to all this trouble to restore this little



Above: Mostafa’s hand was badly damaged in a U.S. missile strike in Basra in 2000. Shards of shrapnel were embedded in his liver and back, most of which Iraqi doctors were unable to remove. Mostafa received surgery, a prosthetic glove, and post-traumatic counseling in California in 2003.

Above right: The Iraqi health care system was badly damaged by U.S. sanctions in the Nineties, which limited access to basic medical supplies. According to reports by Doctors Without Borders, hospital conditions have not improved since the beginning of the war. Iraqi doctors and nurses struggle to treat patients without basics like bandages, painkillers, and instrument sterilizers. Medical equipment is often outdated or in need of repair. In addition, doctors are frequent targets for both U.S. and insurgent hostility.

Center right: At Shriner’s Hospital for Children in Houston, Asra’a was fitted with a prosthetic arm. Physical therapists taught her to perform simple tasks for herself for the first time since her arm was severed by shrapnel from a U.S. missile five years ago.

Bottom right: Posters using this photograph of Asra’a, snapped on a bus by documentary photographer Alan Pogue in 2000, were downloaded from the No More Victims Web site in nine different languages and used in anti-war protests all over the world.

girl’s eyesight and then we’re sending her back where for all we know she’ll be blown up in a week,” Pogue says.

“I worry about Asra’a,” Miller says. “I wonder how she’s doing, if she’s OK. It changes the way you hear the news.” It’s a change that Pogue and Miller hope will be contagious. “The human ties are very important,” Miller says. “I don’t think anyone who gets to know one of these children and their families is going to accept the idea of war in the same way again. It brings it home to you how savage war is.”

In a few weeks, 7-year-old Abdul Hakim, will fly to Pittsburgh for medical care. Hakim



THE IRAQI TOLL: Truth Is the First Casualty

"I would say 30,000, more or less, have died as a result of the initial incursion and the ongoing violence against Iraqis." That was President George W. Bush, speaking to the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia on Dec. 12, in his first public acknowledgement of any overall estimate of civilian deaths in the Iraq war. The president did not distinguish between Iraqi military and civilian deaths, and later the White House said the number was based on press estimates. If so, it was an odd statistic, since in October the Defense Department issued a report to Congress ("Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq") that estimated 26,000 Iraqi civilian deaths as a consequence of insurgent attacks. Taken by itself, that would suggest the president believes U.S. and "Coalition" forces are responsible for fewer than 5,000 Iraqi deaths since the March 2003 invasion.

More likely, Bush was simply borrowing the now-conventional media estimate, most often attributed to the Web-based project Iraq Body Count, which bases its numbers on confirmed online media reports of deaths "resulting directly from military action by the USA and its allies" – not deaths attributable to insurgent attacks, an entirely distinct category. That would suggest a minimum estimate should add the two numbers: the IBC's roughly 30,000 to the Pentagon's 26,000, for a very rough total of 56,000 Iraqi deaths due to the war, but blurring the already imprecise distinction between civilian and military casualties. (Interestingly, the Pentagon report claims that while 80% of insurgent attacks are aimed at Coalition forces, 80% of the casualties from such attacks are civilian.) Although the Geneva Convention and related international treaties require an occupying authority to maintain records of civilian casualties (including deaths that are a consequence of both combat and war-related privations), the U.S. attempts no ongoing accounting of civilian casualties due to Coalition military action.

In any case, as the researchers at Iraq Body Count emphasize, their figure of documented

deaths is undoubtedly low as an overall estimate. In October 2004, the British medical journal *The Lancet* released the results of an on-the-ground statistical study – still almost completely ignored or dismissed in mainstream U.S. media – of "excess" Iraqi civilian deaths since the March 2003 U.S. invasion. Excluding deaths from the October U.S. assault of Fallujah – because the casualty rate there was so much higher than the rest of the country – the *Lancet* study produced an estimate of roughly 100,000 civilian casualties through last fall. Since the estimate was by definition imprecise, those very few U.S. media sources that mentioned it at all tended to dismiss the figure as outlandish.

In a recent interview for Pacifica Radio's *Democracy Now!*, Les Roberts, lead researcher on the *Lancet* study and an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, described the study's standard statistical methodology and the strength of its conclusions. "We're going to set that Fallujah number aside," Roberts recalled of their methods, "and report that we think in all of those other neighborhoods, essentially, outside of Anbar Province [Fallujah], we think 100,000 are dead. And we're only 90% sure it's more than 44,000. So there's a distribution around that, and it's possible it could have been 90[,000], and it's possible it could have been 110[,000]. But we said, well, when you consider then Anbar Province as well, the chances that it's under 100,000 are very, very low."

The study appeared more than a year ago. There has been no direct follow-up, but Roberts points out that the civilian casualty rate per day, as documented by IBC and other sources, has risen since that time. Given the president's recent estimate – apparently a very low estimate – there should be ample reason for U.S. reporters to pursue the story. As Roberts noted, however, "I'm even more struck that here, a year after our study came out, the first time the president has been asked about this was not by a reporter, but by someone from the public, when he took a question." – Michael King

will need a prosthetic eye and reconstructive surgery on his jaw, which was shattered last year by fire from a U.S. air strike in Fallujah. Nearly four years after the project to help Asra'a began, four children will get the medical care they need. It's a lot, and it's also nothing. Hundreds, maybe thousands, of other children need similar care and may never get it.

"It takes so little time to do the harm, and so much time to undo it," says Miller. "It's like throwing sand into the ocean at times. But you can't let the hugeness of the problem paralyze you. There is a lot that we as individuals can do. When I'm frustrated, I remind myself of an old Jewish proverb – 'Save one person and you save the world.'"

For more information, see the Web site at www.nomorevictims.org. Alan Pogue's photographs are available at the Web site for the Texas Center for Documentary Photography, www.documentaryphotographs.com.

Asra'a Amir Mizyad and her father visiting Philosopher's Rock at Barton Springs, November 2004



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A TUNA CHRISTMAS: No place like the road for the holidays

Come the yuletide, Austinites can always count on the Zilker Park Tree, the 37th Street lights, and *A Tuna Christmas*. Every year since 1989, Austin's favorite sons, Joe Sears and Jaston Williams, have brought the second play in their Tuna Trilogy home for the holidays. But the comic duo's return to town typically comes after weeks on the road with their seasonal sequel to *Greater Tuna* (which itself inspired a third trip to Texas' third smallest town, *Red, White and Tuna*), and if you think that after so many years and literally thousands of performances, the folks involved have some stories to tell, well, you'd be right.

"I remember one year when we had to perform in Washington, and it was Christmas Day," says Williams. "Our producer told Joe that I'd agreed to work on Christmas Day and told me that Joe had, and so we were madder than hell at each other. We found out what he'd done, and we were having Christmas dinner that afternoon at the Willard Hotel, and he sent word that the after-dinner drinks were on him. So we got a 150-year-old bottle of Grand Marnier and passed it around. That was wonderful. And the stage manager drank so much that he called the show naked. He was backstage at the Kennedy Center buck naked. Now the producer, if he'll send anything, he'll send a bottle of champagne. And so much for that refined air at the Kennedy Center, there you go."

While he wasn't the stage manager that went naked at the Kennedy Center, Bob Tolaro has been behind the scenes in that capacity for every year of *A Tuna Christmas* except the first. "As long as it's been going on, we've never canceled a performance," says Tolaro. "And it's just amazing after so many years. I mean, Jaston walks out as Didi Snively to give the first speech, and the place goes nuts. These people keep coming back! It's such a tribute to these guys, they're in the history books. Joe hasn't missed a performance of any kind since 1982. And Jaston's such a miracle man on stage. He can make lemonade out of any lemon situation. If



Joe Sears, left, and Jaston Williams in *A Tuna Christmas*

a cell phone goes off, he'll say, 'Would you pick up the phone and tell them I'm at work?' Or he'll start a *Greater Tuna* speech and say, 'Wait a minute, that's the wrong play.' And the audience immediately roars with laughter, knowing exactly what's going on."

"Christmas in New York was an amazing experience," says Williams. "That was in '94 [when the show appeared on Broadway]. I think it was the day before Christmas that the review from the *Times* came out. And you try not to think about those things, you just go, oh well, I'm happy with the show, and whatever they say, I'm going to accept, because you really have no choice. And I remember an agent called – I was just getting ready to get in the shower – and he said, 'We just got word on the *Times* review, and it's extremely good.' And I sat down on the edge of the bathtub and wept. It was just relief. It was one of those classic New York days, a beautiful day in the city, and you had the good review, and we felt, you know, now we can relax and really enjoy this."

And now Austin gets to relax and enjoy it again – now, and hopefully for many more Christmases to come. – Barry Pineo

A Tuna Christmas runs Jan. 3-8 at the Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress. For more information, call 472-5470 x1 or visit www.austintheatre.org.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF COMEDY: Touchdown send-up

You say you can't see straight for all the hyper Hook 'Em hoopla? You say you're burned out by the burnt orange orgy of boosterism? You say you're feeling run into the road by the relentless rooting run-up to the Rose Bowl? Is that what's troubling you, Bunky? Then, friend, you need to pick yourself up and march on over to the Hideout Theatre, where this Wednesday you can see a take on the UT-USC match that's sure to put a spring back in your step and a smile on your face. You see, Austin's improv headquarters is fielding its own nationally ranked team (of comedians, natch) to put a comic spin on this clash of pigskin titans. As the game is broadcast, Austin improv expatriate Jeremy Lamb and our own Mike D'Alonzo will provide humorous play-by-play and

color commentary, and whenever the network breaks to a commercial, members of improv troupes Knuckleball Now and Available Cupholders will step in to contribute their own dialogue and music for the ads. A live band (not marching) is promised for halftime, a surprise gift will be presented to some lucky fan, and just to complete that gridiron feel, hot dog and beer vendors will roam the stands hawking their wares. You may be able to catch the national championship game in scores of bars across Austin, but I think it's safe to say you won't see it quite like this anywhere else in town.

– Robert Faires

National Champions of Comedy takes place Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7pm, at the Hideout, 617 N. Congress. For information, visit www.availablecupholders.com.

GEORGE CARLIN: The comedians' comedian

This week, George Carlin was supposed to have *finally* brought his Off Base and On Target tour to Austin after two cancellations in the previous year, first due to his stint in rehab and then to Hurricane Rita. But as this issue was going to press, word came down that the comedian canceled *again*. Despite his being a three-time no-show in Austin, Carlin is still a legend, so the *Chronicle* asked several area comics to share their thoughts on this savagely funny, groundbreaking, and very influential stand-up artist. – Steve Birmingham

"The first thing I remember about Carlin was his *AM/FM* comedy record. It nailed the mood of the time as there were two co-existing worlds in the early Seventies: the AM (the straights) and the FM (the heads). Carlin seemed to be the first Hippie Comic, and when his album *Class Clown* came out with "Seven Words" on it, it was must-have, along with your Indian print bedspread, love beads, and patchouli oil. All that stuff seems silly now, but he has only gotten better with time."

– Kerry Awn

"The amazing thing about George Carlin isn't that he's been doing it for so long. It's that he's stayed relevant for so long. He's constantly redefining himself, but it's always very Carlin. Often a biting social critic, he never comes across as heavy-handed because he's such a master of the language. Just thinking about some of his bits, I find myself in awe."

– Jim Hamilton

"Being able to say you saw George Carlin live is the same as being able to say you saw Michael Jordan or Jerry Rice or Wayne Gretzky play."

– David Huntsberger

"I'm jealous that he can open with such great jokes like 'Have you ever noticed that all those women who are against abortion are the ones you wouldn't want to fuck anyway?' He's one of my idols, so I've tried to open with the most shocking naughty joke in my act, like: 'I saw a bumper sticker on a car that had a picture of the Bible and said "Better than a condom!" And I'm thinking, "How the hell am I supposed to fit that Bible on my dick? Fuck that, how am I supposed to get that Bible up my ass?"' That joke doesn't usually get many laughs. Maybe because Carlin's famous, he can get a laugh from a joke like that and because I'm not famous, I can't. Or maybe it just isn't very funny." – Rob Nash

"George Carlin was a big inspiration to me way before I ever dreamed of becoming a comic. I first saw him on Sullivan, doing the hippie-dippie weatherman. 'Tonight's weather: dark. Continued mostly dark tonight, turning to widely scattered light by morning.' I loved the way he thought. During the Vietnam War, he had great material that really summed up the attitude of the hawkish Americans: 'Pull out? Doesn't sound manly to me, Bob!' I saw that the fool can tell the truth, and as long as it's funny, he won't get his head cut off. We really needed humor then to diffuse tension in the country."

– Nancy Reed

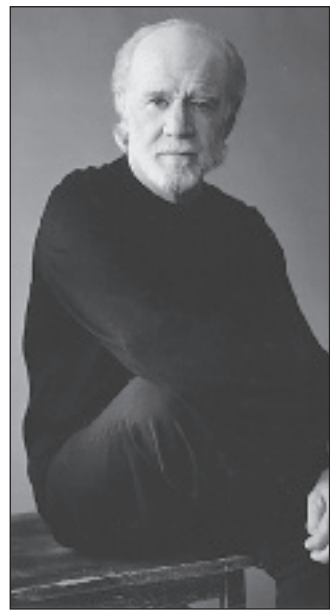
"George Carlin is what I would call a true comedian. By that I mean he has stayed true to the comedy formula. He didn't get successful and then abandon stand-up to start doing TV shows and movies. He remains one of the greatest."

– Jimmie Roulette

"George Carlin would be more successful if he had a gim-mick. Maybe try a schtick pretending to have a lower-middle-class job of some sort and poor grammar. A catchphrase about getting things accomplished might be good, too."

– Brendon Walsh

George Carlin has canceled his Dec. 30 appearance at the Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress. For more information, call 472-5470 x1 or visit www.austintheatre.org.



Our Shostakovich Year

On the centenary of his birth, Austin arts groups join forces to throw the Russian composer a yearlong party

BY ROBERT FAIRES

When old Father Time waltzes out the door with 2005, don't be shocked if, instead of a shiny-faced baby wearing a sash that reads "2006," you see a bespectacled, somber-visaged Russian composer bearing that banner. You see, the new year belongs to Dmitri Shostakovich – in our fair city, at least. In a cultural collaboration that's unprecedented locally, 15 Austin arts organizations have joined forces to commemorate Shostakovich's 100th birth anniversary with a yearlong celebration of his work. When the curtain rises on Austin Lyric Opera's production of the composer's 1932 opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* – a work banned by the Soviet regime for several years, possibly leading Shostakovich to abandon opera – we'll be launched into 12 months of Shostakovich symphonies, concertos, chamber pieces, and music for opera, dance, and films, from his first piece for orchestra, written just two years after the overthrow of the czar when the composer was all of 13 years old, to the vocal and chamber works of his twilight years, written in the age of détente. Shostakovich endured Soviet denunciations of his works, Stalin, the Cold War, and even the ebb and flow of modernism. To some extent, he did that by writing music that would please his Communist overseers (a point of controversy with many of Shostakovich's critics), but he also managed to compose works of enormous power, music that pierced the Iron Curtain and captured the ears – and hearts – of music lovers around the globe. Indeed, his music resonates deeply enough that ALO Artistic Director Richard Buckley was inspired to conceive of a citywide celebration and pitch it to a community where he had only lived a few months, and that community took him up on it. The festival – officially known as Shostakovich 100: Austin

Celebrates – has been in the planning stages for almost two years. The *Chronicle* sat down with Maestro Buckley and Austin Symphony Orchestra Music Director Peter Bay and composer Graham Reynolds, both of whom have been heavily involved in the development of the festival, to learn more about why they believe Shostakovich merits this kind of celebration and how it came about.

The Composer

Austin Chronicle: *Getting a community to rally behind a single composer's work is a big challenge, but 2006 is also the 250th death anniversary of Mozart. I'd think it'd be a lot easier to do Austin Celebrates Mozart 250 than Shostakovich 100.*

Graham Reynolds: It's a lot easier than, say, Schoenberg. [Laughter]

Richard Buckley: That's our next festival.

Peter Bay: But we know practically everything there is to know about Mozart. We know practically everything about his life, except maybe the most intimate things. We know, but we don't know a lot about Shostakovich. A lot of that is based on the history of our two countries. There's so much of the Soviet Union and that system that was and still remains a mystery to most people. There are any number of Shostakovich experts who themselves don't agree on what the truth is. We try to find the answers to some of those questions in the music, but we're not sure. When Leonard Bernstein was playing the *Fifth Symphony* all over the place and making it a very, very popular piece, he played the end of the piece twice as fast as it's written in front of the composer, and everyone agreed this was a big, triumphal, Beethoven-*Fifth* end to a symphony. And then we come to read the memoirs, and it's not



meant to be a big celebratory ending at all. It's as if you gathered everyone into Red Square with guns surrounding all the people, saying, "You will celebrate." So there's so much of the unknown about this composer. I think it's well worth trying to find some answers by doing as much of his music as possible.

Buckley: He has so many different voices of expression. The first piece I came to, interestingly, was one of *his* first pieces, *Symphony No. 1*, which at age 18 or 19 or whatever was an incredible, incredible piece. *Symphony No. 5* is a party piece that all music directors of symphonies do. But then pieces like *Age of Gold*, which is like the ballet music, has this comical, whimsical thing. The first *Violin Concerto* – that's almost Bergian in terms of

the complexity, both rhythmically and harmonically. The *First Piano Concerto* is almost simplistic. One of the reasons I think he is so criticized is because he has such a wide variety of voices. You drop the needle on Mahler, and you know it's Mahler. I think you drop the needle on Shostakovich, and you know it's Shostakovich, *but* it's not only that Mahlerian angst.

Reynolds: As far as 20th-century composers go, he's a good starter for a wider audience. Most 20th-century composition is more satisfying intellectually than emotionally, and Shostakovich is satisfying intellectually *and* emotionally. He also didn't follow the dogma of 20th-century art the way most [artists did]. Most 20th-century visual artists and composers had their stamp, and they stuck with it. You know, you're Rothko and you figure out you're gonna do color squares, and you do color squares, and then you're set. Shostakovich didn't [do that]. And that was partially artistic and partially the ebb and flow between him and the Soviet system, where you do one to please them, then do one

for yourself and do one to please them and one for yourself.

Bay: We gravitate toward stories of repression. Why are they repressed? How did they react to it? Can you imagine if Robert Frost was suddenly told by the U.S. government that he couldn't write? Or Walt Whitman, because he was gay, was told, "You can't write those kinds of poems anymore. We don't allow you to do that." Or Philip Glass was not allowed to write this opera [*Waiting for the Barbarians*, which ALO will produce in 2007] because it has something to do with the Iraq war, and he has to change his style, change his heart. It's not something we can fathom, but that's the kind of stuff that was going on back then.

Buckley: And yet through his whole life Shostakovich maneuvered through that. And my question is, why? I mean, look at all the composers that got out. He could have left. He had ample opportunity. But he had a great desire to stay. He was very successful here, and that was one of the reasons he was able to continue. He wasn't obscure. He became well-known internationally, so the political system couldn't squash him.

AC: *Do you feel his artistic direction changed as a result of the denunciations by the Soviet regime?*

Bay: He and Prokofiev went in the same direction when they were young. They both wrote very precocious, very popular first symphonies. Their next two symphonies went far afield off the tonal track, they're quite dissonant, and then by the time they each got to their fifth symphonies, they're back home in tonal writing. It seems like Shostakovich was always developing in one way or another without being suppressed, but by the time he started to become controlled he wrote a slew of pieces that were really vapid, to satisfy the higher-ups, but he retained the sort of melancholy, sarcas-

continued on p.34

A Shostakovich Primer

Anyone wishing to get a head start on the local celebration of Shostakovich can find a wealth of recorded material to listen to. But say you're new to the composer's work – where to start? Our three Shostakovaphiles offer a few recommendations.

Bay: You should start with a recording of the opera.

Buckley: I think there's only one that's out still. This has been reissued, and it's a great recording. It's [Mstislav Rostropovich [conducting]. [Shostakovich: *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (EMI, \$23.98)]

Reynolds: The Rostropovich *Cello Concerto* is awesome. [Shostakovich: *Cello Concerto No. 1, Op.107*; *Violin Concerto No. 1 (revised)*, Op. 99 (Sony, \$11.98)]

Bay: Rostropovich has a relatively inexpensive boxed set of all of the symphonies with various orchestras. [Shostakovich: *Complete Symphonies* (Teldec, 12 discs, \$119.98)] Basically anything that Rostropovich has done of Shostakovich, you know it's almost coming from the horse's mouth.

Buckley: And it will be better than his son's recordings, in my opinion.

Bay: Rostropovich is really the link: in-depth and close-to-the-heart Shostakovich performances.

AC: *What makes him such a strong interpreter of Shostakovich?*

Buckley: He's a product of the same culture.

Bay: Exactly.

AC: *But so was Maksim [Shostakovich's son].*

Buckley: But Maksim was always living in the shadow of Dmitri.

Bay: And Maksim was not such a hot pianist.

Reynolds: Rostropovich has the intellectual and emotional. A lot of very highly trained, virtuosic players are a lot cleaner and don't have that emotional drive that Shostakovich has, and Rostropovich matches that.

Bay: If people are more interested in piano, the *Preludes and Fugues*, which were inspired by Bach, are a good place to start. [Shostakovich: *24 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 87*/Tatiana Nikolayeva (Hyperion, \$65.98); Shostakovich: *24 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 87*/Vladimir Ashkenazy (Decca, \$33.98); Shostakovich: *24 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 87*/Keith Jarrett (ECM, \$35.98)]

Reynolds: And the Jewish Folks Songs are fantastic and very accessible – really powerful, dramatic, and beautiful. [Shostakovich: *New Babylon Film Music/Song-Cycle From Jewish Folk Poetry* (Chandos, \$17.98)]



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tic edge, and that never changed. I don't know that he had that kind of sarcastic edge beforehand.

Buckley: I think he would have been one of the greatest operatic composers of the century, and I'm really saddened that it got stepped on. Because he didn't really do that much vocal music after *[Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk]* – a couple of symphonies, some songs, and stuff like that, and the drama that he did was in the symphonic palette. It just totally turned him off, and I'm really saddened by that. His understanding of making a dramatic moment and vocal – When I first did *Lady Macbeth*, I went, Wow! What we missed, what we missed.

Bay: One of the reasons he went away from vocal music is because when you have a piece of vocal music, you can pretty much figure out what the message is. If you write a symphony, it's all hidden – at least to the general public. Those in the know might understand that this motive might have meant, you know, "Screw you, Stalin," because that's what he told his friends that it meant, but you don't really know what's going on with an abstract symphony.

Reynolds: You don't realize the value of something until it's gone. The value of our open expression with art is much more valuable when you look at someone who didn't have it, and the value of what music and art means to culture becomes much more clear.

The Celebration

AC: *The scope of this project is fascinating. Richard, did this originate with you?*

Buckley: It's my baby. I can say that, and I should say that, but at the same time, without the partnership of people like Peter and Graham and a lot of the other people in the community it wouldn't have gone anywhere. I started in September of 2003, and our first meeting was February 24, 2004, where we invited absolutely everybody: artistic, educational, radio stations, papers. Peter made the comment that in all the years he'd been here, he'd never seen this type of group of people ...

Bay: In one room. All of us were in one room. It was pretty extraordinary.

Buckley: I went into it with the desire of wanting to do this piece *[Lady Macbeth]* because I think it's a great piece and it's a piece that should be done. That was how it all generated, and what's been heartening is to see the dedication of the people to follow through. There was a six-month period after we threw out the idea when

everyone had to get over the fact that we weren't being daddy with a budget that was going to produce something. "No, we're not going to fundraise it. We're going to make and create this on our own. Everyone's going to do their own thing." And everyone else has continued to get together and drink vodka and eat caviar and talk about what we're going to do. Already we have enough stuff that we've made a statement. We have things like KMFA doing 52 Shostakovich "minutes" – they're actually two minutes – that they're producing that will be on the radio telling the community about Shostakovich. It's being written by a musicologist here, a Shostakovich specialist, and they're going to try and get a sponsor and provide them to other radio stations around the country. Peter's doing how many pieces?

Bay: Two in January and three in the fall.

Buckley: We're doing *Lady Macbeth*. All the string quartets are going to be performed at the university, by either students or the Miró Quartet. The [UT] band and the orchestra are going to be doing repertoire once they get conductors in. The library is going to show this BBC documentary about Shostakovich's life at all 30-plus library [branches] free to the public. The ballet is doing something. It's snowballed in that way. And what was fun and what's great is that once everyone got involved it was not that big of a deal.

Bay: It's interesting how Shostakovich's centennial has, thanks to Richard's foresight, [provided] a way for all of Austin's arts organizations to get together. We're not necessarily playing with each other, but we're all on the same team. We're all thinking of something that we can do city-wide artistically that would be meaningful with a meaningful composer. We have all these incredible resources here, and he's figured out a way to have us all participate. Outside of a handful of pieces this is a very famous composer whose music we know relatively little. There are so many fields of Shostakovich's music that we've not tapped. This is a wonderful opportunity to do so.

Reynolds: If you go see music by these types of organizations, by the end of the year everyone will have heard some Shostakovich, and he won't be a composer that will be up on the calendar and people say, "Oooh, maybe I'll skip that one." He should become one of those composers that people say, "Oooh, I want to see that one." Like, you see Beethoven up there and you don't know anything about that piece, but you know you like Beethoven, so you go. Shostakovich could join those ranks pretty easily. ■

Shostakovich 100 Schedule

One opera, two piano concertos, a handful of symphonies, a dozen string quartets, and a score of songs – Shostakovich 100 will be serving all this up over the next 12 months, covering every aspect of the composer's varied output at every stage of his career, from his first composition at age 13 to his last work when he was 69. Here is a partial schedule of events; at press time, not every participating group had released its event information. For updates, visit www.shostakovich100.org. – R.F.

Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk

Austin Lyric Opera presents Shostakovich's 1932 opera with Brenda Harris as Katerina Ismailova. Jan. 7, 9, 13, and 15, at Bass Concert Hall. 472-5992 or www.austinelyricopera.org

Scherzo, Op.1 and Violin Concerto

Peter Bay conducts the Austin Symphony performing Shostakovich's early Scherzo (1919) and first violin concerto (1948) with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as soloist on a program with Sibelius' *Symphony No. 1*. Jan. 20, 21 at Bass Concert Hall. 476-6064 or www.austinsymphony.org

Russian Winter

Conspirare presents soprano Melissa Givens and pianist Melissa Marse in an intimate evening of Russian song, with works by Shostakovich and other Russian composers. Jan. 27 at Chez Zee Gallery, 5406 Balcones. 476-5775 or www.conspirare.org

Concerto No. 1 for Trumpet, Piano & Strings

Chamber Soloists of Austin presents Shostakovich's 1933 piano concerto with Gregory Allen on piano, on a program with works by Telemann, Bach, and Bartok. Feb. 11, 8pm, at First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. 499-0060 or www.chambersoloists.com

String Quartet No. 1

Austin Chamber Music Center presents Shostakovich's first string quartet with Van Cliburn Competition finalist Roberto Plano on a program with works by Mozart and Dvorak. March 12, 7:30pm, at Congregation Agudas Achim, 7300 Hart. 454-0026 or www.austinchambermusic.org

Director's Choice

Ballet Austin choreographer premieres a new work by choreographer Gina Patterson set to music by Shostakovich on a program with her dance *InsideOut* and work by Stephen Mills. March 31, April 1-2, at Bass Concert Hall. 476-2163 or visit www.balletaustin.org

Salad Days and Russian Dressing

Austin Chamber Ensemble presents works from each decade of Shostakovich's career: *Five Preludes for Piano* (1919); *Polka From "The Age of Gold"* (1929); excerpts from *24 Preludes for Piano* (1933); *String Quartet No. 2, Movements I, III, IV* (1944); *Four Waltzes for flute, clarinet, and piano* (1955); *Seven Romances on Poems by A. Blok* (1967); *String Quartet No. 15, Movements III, IV* (1974). April 2 at First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. 345-3399.

Prelude and Fugue No.15

A. Mozart Fest presents pianist William Doppmann performing the longest of Shostakovich's *24 Preludes and Fugues*

(1951), plus works by Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, and Bartok. April 23 at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity. Call 371-7217 or www.amozartfest.org

Spring Concert With Shostakovich

Austin Civic Orchestra presents Shostakovich's *Festive Overture* (1954), *Piano Concerto No. 2* (1957), and *Symphony No. 9, Movement 1* (1945). May 13, 7:30pm, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 3701 W. Slaughter. 990-8226 or

www.austincivorchestra.org

Merriment for Mom

Austin Chamber Ensemble's annual Mother's Day concert features Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 7* (1960) on a program with other string quartet works. May 14, 3pm, at a private residence. 345-3399

Austin Chamber Music Festival

The Austin Chamber Music Center's three-week festival features several works by Shostakovich, including *Symphony No. 15* (1971), arranged for piano trio and percussion by Viktor Derevianko, performed by the Ananda Trio with Kevin Hathway (gala opening at the Driskill Hotel); *String Quartet No. 3* (1943), performed by Cuarteto Latinoamericano (Congregation Agudas Achim); and *Symphony No. 10* (1953), in an original arrangement for one piano, four hands, performed by Duo Turgeon (St. Stephen's School). 454-0026 or www.austinchambermusic.org

Vocal and Piano Works

UT School of Music presents Sophia Gilmon, piano, with vocalists Rose Taylor, Darlene Wiley, Roger Myers, and Stanley Warren performing Shostakovich's *Jewish Folk Poetry* (1948); *Six Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva* (1973); and *Sonata for Viola and Piano* (1975). Sept. 23, 8pm, at Jessen Auditorium. 471-5401 or www.music.utexas.edu/calendar

String Quartets 11-14

The Miró Quartet, the UT School of Music's resident string quartet, performs four of Shostakovich's late-career string quartets (1966-73). Sept. 28, 8pm, at Bates Recital Hall. 471-5401 or www.music.utexas.edu/calendar

Fire of Eternal Glory

The Cedar Park High School Marching Band will play "Fire of Eternal Glory," which includes movements 1, 2, and 4 of Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 10* (1953), at all CPHS football games and in various contests and competitions around the state. September-November.

Symphony No. 5

The UT Symphony Orchestra performs Shostakovich's most popular symphony. Oct. 2, 8pm, at Bates Recital Hall. 471-5401 or www.music.utexas.edu/calendar



KATHERINE ANNE PORTER: THE LIFE OF AN ARTIST

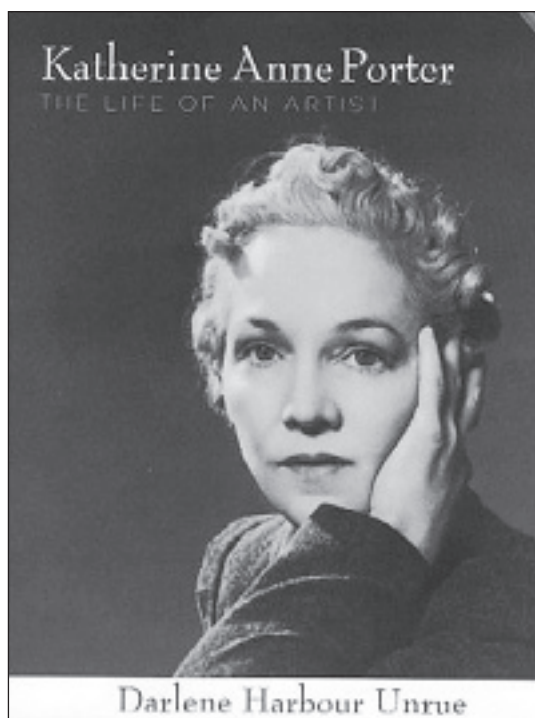
by Darlene Harbour Unrue
University Press of Mississippi,
381 pp., \$30

She was a lifelong prevaricator, a raconteur, a flirt, and a compulsive spender whose passion for finery nearly bankrupted her on multiple occasions. She was maternal and doting, but she was ambivalent about motherhood, viewing domesticity as a trap; she lost babies to miscarriage and abortion and, finally, to an oophorectomy. She despised the institution of wedlock but married five times. She was strenuously committed to truth-telling in her stories, novels, and non-fiction, but she dissembled constantly, erasing years of her life from the public record and encouraging her friends to burn her letters. She was bracingly political – an early foe of Nazism and fascism, a labor activist, and a purposefully unconventional woman, although she eschewed the label of “feminist” – but she never voted until she reached old age, and she fervently defended the separation of art and politics. Because she never felt permanently at home during her Central Texas and Louisiana childhood, when she was shuttled between rental houses and relatives, she was obsessed with real estate and once bought a mountain in the California desert, yet she was just as loath to be tied down to a single spot and would make a “wild dash”: to Mexico, to Paris, to Greenwich Village, to Bermuda, to any greener pasture in a never-ending search for adventure. She was both disappointed by and enraptured by men and carried on affairs with much younger ones until her death in

To her myriad admirers,
she was “our Cleopatra” –
flamboyant and larger-than-
life, effortlessly brilliant,
and fascinatingly flawed,
a natural celebrity and a
natural artist at once.

1980 at age 90. To her myriad admirers, she was “our Cleopatra” – flamboyant and larger than life, effortlessly brilliant, and fascinatingly flawed, a natural celebrity and a natural artist at once.

The Life of an Artist is a meticulous biography worthy of an academic press, and Unrue is an indefatigable Porter scholar who has written on her poetry, fiction, reviews, and letters. Unrue makes clear Porter's contributions to American literature – she provides a succinct but insightful analysis of the long novel *Ship of Fools* – but she focuses consistently on the narrative of Porter's life. The result is most of all a satisfying story, a real page-turner that proves readable to general audiences. Readers need not be overly familiar with Porter's writing to appreciate her as a protagonist in the engaging tale of her life, yet the



book is authoritative enough to recommend itself to serious students, as well. Unrue synthesizes her exhaustive research in a clear, plainspoken fashion that affords a sense of intimacy with her subject without undermining Porter's artistic stature.

Although she resisted the inquiries of biographers during her lifetime – she hired one herself after she became famous to discourage the others – Porter would likely approve of Unrue's presentation of her life as a ripping but substantive yarn. Friendships are brokered and broken in the space of a page, and legendary feuds erupt: with Caroline Gordon; with Josie Herbst; with Gertrude Stein; with her ex-lover Salomón de la Selva; with the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (she received but returned the organization's Emerson-Thoreau medal, citing the group's mistreatment of Ezra Pound); with several Hollywood studios throughout her mercenary sojourn as a scriptwriter during lean times; and with Harry Ransom, then president of UT-Austin, whom she felt rebuffed her in failing to dedicate a library to her. Dylan Thomas mauled her at a party, and Hermann Göring tried but failed to romance her late in 1931 when she was living in Berlin. (She found him intriguing but frightening.) Her relationships with her editors are likewise absorbing, and Unrue painstakingly records the business machinations of the New York publishing circle before, during, and after Porter's ascension to literary fame.

Despite her cosmopolitanism and her desire to bury her past, Porter retained an affection for Texas and its people: “And in many ways that I could not describe without thinking it out,” she said, “I am one of them and awfully like them, in character and in temperament.” Likewise, she never outran her need for the love of her father, Harrison, a bitter widower who failed to acknowledge her gifts. Throughout *The Life of an Artist*, Unrue connects the threads of Porter's upbringing and family life to her art, creating a holistic and crystalline portrait of Texas's own Cleopatra.

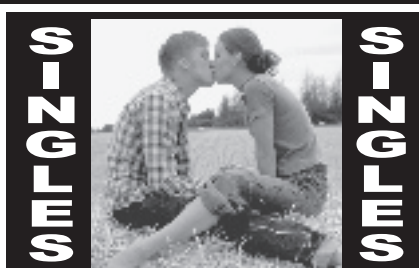
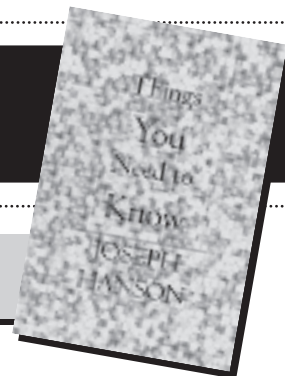
– Marrit Ingman

Suppose your grandmother teamed up with Machiavelli to write a book

Things You Need to Know
by Joseph Hanson

“The early bird may catch the worm, but
the second mouse gets the cheese.”

find it at www.amazon.com



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Tapestry Dance Company presents



January 20th & 21st, 8:00pm

The Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, Austin, TX

Call 866-443-8849 for tickets!



This project is supported by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and funded in part by the City of Austin under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission.

The Last Shall Be First

New Year’s Eve becomes a cultural extravaganza with First Night Austin

BY ROBERT FAIRES

The last night of 2005 will be the first night of First Night Austin, and the arts scene is eager to see just how our town will embrace this cultural spectacle that’s now become a New Year’s Eve tradition in scores of other cities across the continent. The local version, developed in the past year by Anne Elizabeth Wynn and guided by director Ann S. Graham, will see more than 80 local arts groups and individual artists animating downtown this Saturday with performances in theatres, in outdoor public spaces, and on the street, showing art in windows of buildings and across their facades, creating art in museums and across the entire First Street Bridge. The first three hours are designated a family festival, then a Grand Procession down Congress Avenue

Family Festival 2-5pm

Ongoing all afternoon

The Butler Brothers – Black Eyed Pea, *Fielding Lecht Gallery, 708 Congress.* Eight-foot-long giant black-eyed pea pays tribute to good luck and prosperity in the New Year. 2-5pm

Chinese Yo Yo Troupe, *301 Congress.* Chinese folk sport group demonstrates the Chinese Yo-Yo. 2-5pm

VSA arts of Texas – Wearable Art Hat-Making Workshop, *301 Congress.* Hands-on workshop for creating festive hats using an HEB bag and fanciful attachments. 2-5pm

Grand Procession Art Flag Making Workshop, *Community Room, Austin Museum of Art, 823 Congress.* All-ages hands-on workshop for creating original art flags for First Night Austin Grand Procession. 2-5pm

Coronado Studios, Mexic-Arte Museum, *419 Congress.* Hands-on workshop in which participants can “pull” an original silkscreen print. 2-4pm

Carmela Castrejon, Mexic-Arte Museum, *419 Congress.* Make a miniature piñata in this hands-on workshop for all ages. 2-4pm

Mexic-Arte Museum – Feliz Años, Feliz Familias, *Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress.* Artist-led workshop for creating traditional Latin American holiday crafts such as *maracacitos*, *papel picados*, and masks. 2-4pm

The Robot Group, *upper plaza, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress.* Real Austin-produced robots and miniature train cars with robotic passengers. 2-4pm

2pm

Sambaxé, Central Presbyterian Church, *200 E. Eighth.* Classical Brazilian tunes and Brazilianized American pop music by this vocal and percussion band. 2-2:30pm

Creative Opportunity Orchestra, Circle of Light, State Theater, 719 Congress. Multicultural musical celebration of the holiday season featuring 19 artists. 2-2:45pm

Richard “Rashah” Carson – Drumming Workshop, *lobby, Bank of America, 501 Congress.* All-ages hands-on workshop teaching rhythms and tones of African drums and percussion instruments. 2-2:30pm

Capitol City Highlanders Pipe Band, *balcony, 327 Congress.* Authentic Scottish and Irish tunes on the bagpipes with drum accompaniment. 2-2:30pm

Austin Taiko – Great Drums, *lobby, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress.* Synchronized traditional style and original songs on Japanese drums. 2-2:30pm

2:30pm

Dance International, Frost Bank lobby, *401 Congress.* Waltzes, Foxtrot, Swing, Samba, and more ballroom and Latin dancing. 2:30-3pm

2:45pm

The TroublePuppetShow – Song of the Ghost Ship, *plaza, Bank of America, 501 Congress.* Three-masted sailing ship on wheels serves as a puppet theatre in a tale of heroes trapped between one year and the next. 2:45-3:15pm

Richard “Rashah” Carson – Drumming Workshop, *lobby, Bank of America, 501 Congress.* All-ages hands-on workshop teaching rhythms and tones of African drums and percussion instruments. 2:45-3:15pm

Austin Taiko – Great Drums, *lobby, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress.* Synchronized traditional style and original songs on Japanese drums. 2:45-3:15pm

3pm

Badgerdog Literary Publishing – Youth Voices in Ink, *Austin Museum of Art, 823 Congress.* Young authors read their original works from *Anthology of New Voices From Central Texas*. 3-3:30pm

Kabula: Brazilian Intercultural Exchange – Capoeira Angola, *816 Congress.* Traditional ritual drama featuring this fighting art carried from Africa to Brazil. 3-3:45pm

Outreach Productions – Mumba and the Stew Pot, *Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth.* Story of Mumba the troublemaker monkey told through dance, drumming, and puppetry. 3-3:30pm

Capitol City Highlanders Pipe Band, *balcony, 327 Congress.* Authentic Scottish and Irish tunes on the bagpipes with drum accompaniment. 3-3:30pm

Central Texas Mountaineers – Austin Urban Ascent 2006, *west facade of the Radisson Hotel, Congress at Cesar Chavez.* Speed rock-climbers climb up and rappel down the hotel facade dressed as businessmen. 3-3:20pm

O’Henry Museum – “Joe and Billy,” *Boards and Commissions Room, Austin City Hall.* Unpublished William Sidney Porter manuscript read aloud by Russell Wiseman with singing cowboy Bill Oliver and weaver Amy Crockett. 3-3:30pm

Marrilee Ratcliffe/Open Book Project – Turning the Page on 2005, Opening the Book of 2006, *Austin City Hall.* Larger-than-life open book with imagery and text by Austin Public Library patrons chronicles the past and depicts hopes for the future. 3-5pm

3:15pm

Creative Opportunity Orchestra, Circle of Light, State Theater, 719 Congress. Multicultural musical celebration of the holiday season with 19 artists. 3:15-4pm

3:30pm

The TroublePuppetShow – Song of the Ghost Ship, *plaza, Bank of America, 501 Congress.* Three-masted sailing ship on wheels serves as puppet theatre in a tale of heroes trapped between one year and the next. 3:30-4pm

Dance International, Frost Bank lobby, *401 Congress.* Waltzes, Foxtrot, Swing, Samba, and more ballroom and Latin dancing. 3:30-4pm

Mariachi En Fuego, plaza of Austin City Hall, *301 W. Second.* Music of the Mariachi on guitarro, trumpets, violins, and vihuela. 3:30-4pm

3:45pm

Love of China School of Chinese Dance, *lobby, Bank of America, 501 Congress.* Traditional Chinese folk dance performed by dancers ages 7-18. 3:45-4:15pm

Djundun Dudes, lobby, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress. Young people’s percussion ensemble working from the traditions of West Africa. 3:45-4:15pm

Uprise! Productions – Power Is Yours: Take It or Leave It, *100 Congress.* The journey of the warrior figure to empowerment told through spoken word and poetry, dance, Capoeira, and stage combat. 3:45-4:15pm

Central Texas Mountaineers – Austin Urban Ascent 2006, *west facade of the Radisson Hotel, Congress at Cesar Chavez.* Speed rock-climbers climb up and rappel down the hotel facade dressed as businessmen. 3:45-4:05pm

4pm

Tongue and Groove Theatre, Congress between Sixth & Ninth. Roving mimes with the International Tubadores perform busker-style street theatre. 4-5pm

Badgerdog Literary Publishing – Youth Voices in Ink, *Austin Museum of Art, 823 Congress.* Young authors read original published works from *Anthology of New Voices From Central Texas*. 4-4:30pm

Kabula: Brazilian Intercultural Exchange – Bumba-meu-Boi, *816 Congress.* Traditional story told through puppets accompanied by percussion and singing. 4-4:45pm

Outreach Productions – Mumba and the Stew Pot, *Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth.* Story of Mumba the

and over to City Hall serves as the bridge to the evening celebration, starting at 7pm and ending at 12mid with fire-works on Town Lake. Admission to outdoor events is free, but to attend indoor events, you need a First Night Austin 2006 Button (\$8 if purchased in advance, \$10 at the event; children 6 and younger are free). Free parking is available at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd.; Townlake Center, 721 Barton Springs Rd.; and in the State Capitol Complex lots. Capital Metro ’Dillos will ferry First Nighters to the festivities between 1:30pm and 3am. Paid parking is available in the Austin Convention Center Garage, 201 E. Second (\$7 per vehicle). Below is a list of scheduled events by time. You can find additional breakdowns by discipline on the Web site, www.firstnightaustin.org.



troublemaker monkey told through dance, drumming, and puppetry. 4-4:30pm

Sambaxé, Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress. Classical Brazilian tunes and Brazilianized American pop music by this high-energy vocal and percussion band. 4-4:30pm

B-Boy City Break Dancers, plaza, Frost Bank Tower, 401 Congress. Street dancers break to the beat of hip-hop culture. 4-5:15pm

O’Henry Museum – “Joe and Billy,” *Boards and Commissions Room of Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second.* Unpublished William Sidney Porter manuscript read aloud by Russell Wiseman with singing cowboy Bill Oliver and weaver Amy Crockett. 4-4:30pm

Elaine Shen & Melanie Schopper – Snow Tree Island, Triangle Island, *First Street Bridge at Cesar Chavez.* Falling “snow” within the canopy of live oak trees. 4-5pm



Acia Gray of Tapestry Dance Company

4:30pm

Tapestry Dance Company, State Theater, 719 Congress. Jason Janas, Matthew Shields, and Acia Gray perform improvisational tap to live accompaniment by jazz trio. 4:30-5pm

Salvage Vanguard Theater – ReVERBérations, *exterior balcony, Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress.* Austin Poetry Slam artistic director Mike Henry and SVT company member Hilary Thomas play off five words in a spoken-word improv. 4:30-4:50pm

Love of China School of Chinese Dance, *lobby, Bank of America, 501 Congress.* Traditional Chinese folk dance performed by dancers ages 7-18. 4:30-5pm

Djundun Dudes, lobby, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress. Young people’s percussion ensemble working from the traditions of West Africa. 4:30-5pm

Mariachi En Fuego, plaza of Austin City Hall, *301 W. Second.* Music of the Mariachi on guitarro, trumpets, violins, and vihuela. 4:30-5pm

Overall Schedule:

Family Festival	2:00-5:00pm
Grand Procession	5:30–6:30pm
Family Finale	6:30-7:00pm
Evening Program	7:30-11:30pm
Midnight Finale	11:30-12:00am

5pm

Salvage Vanguard Theater – ReVERBérations, *exterior balcony, Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress.* Austin Poetry Slam artistic director Mike Henry and SVT company member Hilary Thomas play off five words in a spoken-word improv. 5-5:20pm



The Sno-ball art car by Colleen Sommers will roll with the Grand Procession

Grand Procession 5:30-6:30pm

Parade down Congress to Austin City Hall, featuring: a Segway ballet, a RoboTheremin marching band, an art car covered with Hostess Snowballs, an “Antarticar,” giant puppets, giant piñatas, colorful banners, kites, Indian lanterns, jugglers, unicyclers, skaters, stiltwalkers, bagpipes, percussion, and dance, with:

Texas Juggling Society & Austin One-Wheelers Unicycle Club, The Art School of the Austin Museum of Art@Laguna Gloria, Académicos da Opera from the Austin Samba School, Tanjore Performing Arts & Indian Cultural Center, Rhythm/Rituals N.W.A. Performance Group, Kabula: Brazilian Intercultural Exchange, Capitol City Highlanders Pipe Band, Jean Graham and Linda Anderson, Angela Entzel and Wanda Krudas, Garreth Wilcock’s Ant Brigade, Vortex Repertory Company, The Trouble Puppet Show, Richard “Rashah” Carson, Totally Cool/Totally Art, Theater Action Project, Chinese Yo Yo Troupe, Percussion Cubana, Cycle Circus Austin, The Robot Group, Chad Rittenberry, Cybil Gustafson, Pilar Castrejon, Barbara Timko, Aralyn Hughes, Jaclyn Pryor, Andy Cover

Families and friends with art flags are invited to join the end of the Grand Procession.

Family Finale 6:30-7pm, Austin City Hall

Come together after the Grand Procession for an early ringing in of the New Year, complete with 7pm fireworks.

Académicos da Opera, the Austin Samba School. Celebratory music and dance of Carnaval in Rio. 6:30– 7pm.

Austin Poetry Slam – “The City is Speaking!” Mike Henry, Jaclyn Pryor. 7pm

! Pyrotechnics ! CSC, Rooftop Display. 7pm

Ongoing all day

Sally Weber – Reflecting Time, *Scarborough Building, Sixth and Congress*. A collage of text, light, and imagery scrolls across 70 feet of tapered screen linking gratitude for the past with dreams of the future. Through Jan. 15

Adam Reese – Spring Fever, *plaza, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. Large, vibrant prints of wildflowers in bloom. Through Jan. 3

Art Is the Bridge, *First Street Bridge*. Austinites can help create the longest chalk drawing in the world across the 800-ft.-long First Street Bridge. Each person decorates a 12-inch-by-12-inch square. 2pm-12mid

Field Sketch 01, Auditorium Shores. Artists, designers, and architects create a temporary monument using three 30-foot-by-50-foot metal grids from which 4,500 weighted vinyl tubes are suspended and illuminated. 2-11:30pm

Woode Wood & Beth Lee, *Congress Avenue*. Strolling guitar/mandolin player and singer/songwriter perform original roots rock, Americana and modern folk. 2-11pm

Barna Kantor – Reflections, *One American Center, 600 Congress*. Mirrored sidewalk alters our perception of the ground beneath us. 2-9pm



The Evening Program

Ongoing all evening

Mary Ann McQuillan – Brushstrokes at Midnight, *Arthouse at the Jones Center, 700 Congress*. Video installation in which a young child “paints herself in” behind glass windows. 6:30-11pm

Johnny Walker – Floating Dragon, *Town Lake*. Hundred-foot-long illuminated floating structure like a glowing Chinese Dragon glides upon the dark waters of Town Lake. 7-11:30pm

Oscar Riquelme – Shadow Catcher, *lower plaza, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. The artist captures First Night Austin festivalgoers in paint as light casts their shadows on canvas. 7-11pm

Luke Savisky – D/x, *Radisson Hotel, Congress at Cesar Chavez*. Monumental 35mm and 16mm film montage lights up the west facade of the hotel. 7-11pm

The Butler Brothers – Black Eyed Pea, *Buford Tower, West Cesar Chavez*. Eight-foot-long giant black-eyed pea pays tribute to good luck and prosperity in the New Year. 7-11pm

Elaine Shen & Melanie Schopper – Snow Tree Island, Triangle Island, *First Street Bridge at Cesar Chavez*. Falling “snow” within the canopy of live oak trees. 7-11pm

Marrilee Ratcliffe/Open Book Project – Turning the Page on 2005, Opening the Book of 2006, *Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. Larger-than-life open book with imagery and text by Austin Public Library patrons chronicles the past and depicts hopes for the future. 7-11pm

Jill S. Kivikko – Triptych, *301 Congress*. Drawing upon mythology of the Greek Fates and Hours, J.S. Kivikko explores cycles of initiating, expanding, and letting go. 7-10pm

6:30pm

Olivia Chacon and Company – De Noche, *State Theater, 719 Congress*. Original production showcasing the beauty and range of flamenco music and dance. 6:30-7:15pm

Rajamani World Music Ensemble, *Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress*. Oliver Rajamani leads his six member ensemble on a journey through India, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Europe. 6:30-7:15pm

7pm

Natyalaya School of Dance – Antariksha, *lobby, Bank of America, 501 Congress*. Indian dance ballet explores the story of the individual soul going through the cycle of life. 7-7:35pm

Sharir + Bustamante Danceworks – Court Dance, *lobby, Frost Bank Tower, 401 Congress*. Dance fantasy reminiscent of an 18th-century court dance or a life-size chess game. 7-7:20pm

Poor Man's Fortune, *301 Congress*. Celtic music trio performs traditional music of Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, France, and Galicia on traditional instruments. 7-7:30pm

7:30pm

Djembabes, *One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Women's drum and vocal ensemble perform music of West African origin “Austin style.” 7:30-8pm

Uprise! Productions – Power Is Yours: Take It or Leave It, *100 Congress*. The journey of the warrior figure to empowerment told through spoken word and poetry, dance, Capoeira, and stage combat. 7:30-8pm

Kabula: Brazilian Intercultural Exchange, *plaza, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. A celebration of the New Year through the traditional art, imagery and joyous charm of Brazil. 7:30-8pm

7:45pm

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Austin Poetry Slam – Poetry Slam Town Criers, *upper plaza, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Members of the 2005 Austin Poetry Slam team perform a series of three-minute poems/monologues. 7:45-8:15pm

8pm

Fire Dancing Spectacular – Night of Magic, *Auditorium Shores*. Fire dancing performed by local troupes Las Elefinas (8pm), Sangré del Sol (8:30pm), Pyrogenesis (9pm), Thundertopia Angels of Fire (9:30pm), and Tropical Productions (10pm). 8-11pm

Sharir + Bustamante Danceworks – Court Dance, *lobby, Frost Bank Tower, 401 Congress*. Dance fantasy reminiscent of an 18th-century court dance or a life-size chess game. 8-8:20pm

Improvisational Movement Project – Getting From There to Here, *100 Congress*. Five dancers in electro-luminous costumes explore the pedestrian experience through spontaneous dances on the urban streetscape. 9-9:30pm

Cybil Gustafson – Segway Ballet, *plaza, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. A “ballet” for four dancers on Segways exploring everyday actions and the relationship that develops between dancers. 8-8:07pm

Austin Poetry Slam – I Live Here/a Poetry Slam Collaboration, *Council Chambers, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. Five-voice poem about the experience of living in Austin, drawn from personal stories. 8-8:25pm

8:15pm

Cybil Gustafson – Segway Ballet, *plaza, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. A “ballet” for four dancers on Segways exploring everyday actions and the relationship that develops between dancers. 8:15-8:22pm

8:30pm

Austin Poetry Slam – Poetry Slam Town Criers, *upper plaza, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Members of the 2005 Austin Poetry Slam team perform a series of three-minute poems/monologues. 8:30-9pm

Djembabes, *One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Women's drum and vocal ensemble perform music of West African origin “Austin style.” 8:30-9pm

Big Chief Kevin and the Flaming Arrow Mardi Gras Indians, *plaza, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. Big Chief Kevin performs Mardi Gras Indian classics like “Shallow Water” and “Sew Sew” with the Flaming Arrows. 8:30-9pm

8:45pm

Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble, *301 Congress*. Egyptian style bellydance set to live music of a Middle Eastern persuasion. 8:45-9:15pm

9pm

Blue Lapis Light – Whispers of Heaven, *State Theater, 719 Congress*. Dancers explore aerial space using flowing pillars of cloth, reaching, and freefalling from up to 20 feet. 9-9:45pm

Freddie Steady 5 Featuring Austin a Go Go, *Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress*. Original Texas rock & roll sprinkled with covers from the 1960s accompanied by Austin's Go Go Girl. 9-9:45pm

Improvisational Movement Project – Getting From There to Here, *100 Congress*. Five dancers in electro-luminous costumes explore the pedestrian experience through spontaneous dances on the urban streetscape. 9-9:30pm

Central Texas Mountaineers – Austin Urban Ascent 2006, *west facade of the Radisson Hotel, Congress at Cesar Chavez*. Speed rock climbers climb up and rappel down the hotel facade dressed as businessmen. 9-9:20pm

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9:30pm

Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble, *301 Congress*. Egyptian style bellydance set to live music of a Middle Eastern persuasion. 9:30-10pm

Anuradha Naimpally – Bollywood, *upper plaza, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Costumed dancers demonstrate moves from popular Hindi films accompanied by lively Bollywood film scores. 9:30-10pm

Inside Out Steel Band, *lobby, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Music from the Caribbean and the Americas performed on the Trinidad Steel Pan. 9:30-10pm

Big Chief Kevin and the Flaming Arrow Mardi Gras Indians, *plaza, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. Big Chief Kevin performs Mardi Gras Indian classics like “Shallow Water” and “Sew Sew” with the Flaming Arrows. 9:30-10pm

9:45pm

Central Texas Mountaineers – Austin Urban Ascent 2006, *west facade of the Radisson Hotel, Congress at Cesar Chavez*. Speed rock climbers climb up and rappel down the hotel facade dressed as businessmen. 9:45-10:05pm

10pm

Chandra Washington – In Pursuit of Wellness, *Council Chambers, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. Original spoken-word and a cappella vocal compositions drive an energetic, insightful, and inspiring presentation. 10-10:30pm

10:15pm

Blue Lapis Light – Whispers of Heaven, *State Theater, 719 Congress*. Dancers explore aerial space using flowing pillars of cloth, reaching, and freefalling from up to 20 feet. 10:15-11pm

Freddie Steady 5 Featuring Austin a Go Go, *Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress*. Original Texas rock & roll sprinkled with covers from the 1960s accompanied by Austin's Go Go Girl. 9-9:45pm, 10:15-11pm

Anuradha Naimpally – Bollywood, *upper plaza, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Costumed dancers demonstrate moves from popular Hindi films accompanied by lively Bollywood film scores. 10:15-10:45pm

10:30pm

Inside Out Steel Band, *lobby, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Music from the Caribbean and the Americas performed on the Trinidad Steel Pan. 10:30-11pm

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Chandra Washington – In Pursuit of Wellness, *Council Chambers, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second*. Original spoken-word and a cappella vocal compositions drive an energetic, insightful, and inspiring presentation. 10:45-11:15pm

11:10pm

Sheep Army/Elsewhere Dance Theater – For Office Use Only, *lobby, One Congress Plaza, 111 Congress*. Dances and scenes inspired by office life including an escalator dance and suitcases dipped in water. 11:10-11:30pm

Midnight Finale

11:30pm-12mid, First Street Bridge

Drumming Countdown and Fireworks, *First Street Bridge*. Drummers from the four corners of the First Street Bridge make a processional entry, meeting at the center and creating a drum circle. Then pyrotechnics above Town Lake usher in the New Year. 12mid.



AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

HAPPY TRAILS It was the middle of **September** and I'd finally been able to go home; it'd been about six weeks since I'd gone to **Seattle** for my brother **Bill's** wedding ... and stayed for my stepfather's funeral. We all pitched in, my brothers **Bill** and **Scott**, my sister **Margaret** and myself, to help my mother through the almost intolerably difficult chore of helping her close up her 35 years of life with her husband in Seattle and move to Austin. The trailer truck was eventually loaded, which, after a circuitous route, would meet my mother in Austin with her belongings. **Bill** and **Scott** said their anguished goodbyes to the mother that had only been a stone's throw away from them for decades, I flew home, and Margaret and Mother loaded up the Mercedes with **Addison DeWitt** and **Miss Caswell** (our Chihuahuas) and began the long drive from Seattle to Austin. I'd made it back just in time to attend the **Ballet Austin Fete**, which I'd been committed to for months, and desperately didn't want to miss. That night as I perused outfits and accessories for the ball, the phone rang; it was Margaret calling from

Utah, telling me she was feeling ill and couldn't continue the trip, and asking if I would fly into **Flagstaff, Ariz.**, in the morning and meet them so she could get on a plane and fly home, and I could drive the rest of the way with Mother and the dogs. Of course I'd do it – it would be an adventure. So after too much champagne, fabulous food, magnificent performances, and glorious gowns, I got up at 4am and flew to Flagstaff and met them at the airport, where we did our changeover. Arizona was so very Arizona. It was lovely but made me feel like I needed to be wearing a big skirt and squash-blossom necklace. We made it safely through **Roswell, N.M.**, without being abducted and probed by aliens and spent the night in **Carlsbad** – completely ignoring the bats, since I can see bats out my window any day in Austin. The trip was breezy and fun, and I felt like I should have been wearing Capri pants with a scarf tied over my head, like Thelma and Louise hurtling down Highway 285 at a brisk 99 miles an hour. It was still early morning, and we'd just crossed into West Texas, 17 miles from Pecos, and rejoiced that we



were nearly home. Then those pesky red and blue flashing lights appeared out of nowhere, and within moments, I found myself looking at my very first speeding ticket. Since I was going 99 (my mother *told* me to stay below 100) in a 70 mph zone, my ticket was the jaw-dropping maximum: \$260 and up. I wanted to cry – not because it was my first ticket, but because I was thinking about how much junk jewelry I could buy for \$260. I've been too distraught to look at the ticket ever since. But, really, I was relieved to just get the ticket

and go, because moments after the trooper stopped us, a tow truck appeared. I was mortified imagining our Mercedes being towed away and me and my mother and Addison and Miss Caswell being carted off to the pokey in handcuffs – adult-sized cuffs for me and my mother, and teeny-weeny little Chihuahua-sized ones for them. Mother and I would be able to fend for ourselves, but I hoped they'd have a separate cell for canine perps under 4 pounds. and not just toss them in with all the other big criminal dogs. I knew Miss Caswell would

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try to act vicious and poor Addison would just tremble in his Bermuda shorts. After it was established that I was not transporting contraband and that my 76-year-old mother wasn't on the **FBI's 10 Most Wanted List**, we were allowed to continue, and took off – albeit at a slower rate of speed. I set the cruise control; mom relaxed and read a magazine. In the back seat, Addison pulled a snap-brim hat over his eyes to take a nap, and Miss Caswell played solitaire while listening to hip-hop on her **iPod**. Eventually, we made it into Austin – weary, worn, and all of us having to pee. When we got out of the car, Addison and Miss Caswell just let it gush in the parking lot, though my mother and I waited until we got upstairs. Home, sweet home. This is the first Christmas holidays I've spent with my mother in several years. I adore having her here, and I cherish all the time I get to spend with her now. I wish I could help make up the unutterable sadness she feels for her first holidays without her husband. I can't. But I try in many ways to make sure she knows how deeply she's loved and appreciated. But I'm lucky – I can make it easy by putting into the paper: **I love you, Mom, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**



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food

44 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

Sparkling Examples

It's that time of year again ...

BY WES MARSHALL

There are a few things in life I guess I'll never understand, like crop circles, the media's endless fascination with Michael Jackson, and why on earth everyone waits for New Year's Eve to experience Champagne's joys. Don't get me wrong: I'm glad to see a time, any time, when people enjoy the bubbly. But the truth is, Champagne is the single most adaptable wine on the planet. Need the perfect aperitif? How about a wine with shellfish? Or how about something to frame the earthy aromas of truffles? Need a wine to blunt the fire from your favorite Thai or Indian cuisine? Perhaps a gentle companion for a delicate sashimi? Or the perfect wine for chocolate? Champagne even makes a hot dog taste better.

You get the picture. With the exception of a very heavy game or beef dish, Champagne goes with just about every food you can imagine, and it's one of the few wines that actually transform predinner nebbishes into glowing sophisticates.

By the end of our discussion, you'll have enough information and recommendations for top-notch wines to keep you glowingly sophisticated all year round.

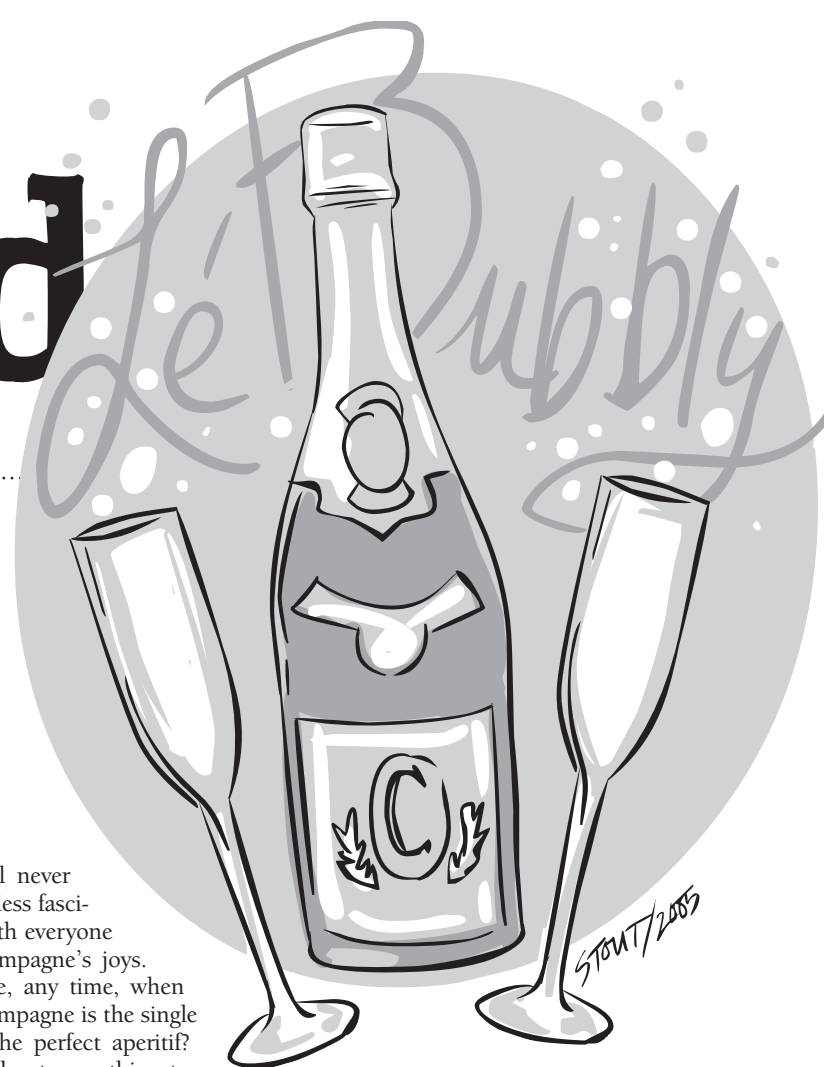
Where Do They Make the Best Champagne?

This, of course, is a trick question. The people who live in the Champagne district of France believe that any use of their name to describe a sparkling wine from anywhere else in the world is an act of cultural piracy, and they have been quite active in fighting to keep the purity of the name. While many consumers might see this as a simple intellectual property case, the champenoise are dead serious about protecting their name. And lest you get the impression that this little outpost of law is boring, do a Google on intellectual property and some of the other demarcated foods that have been through this very struggle, like feta, or basmati, or tequila, or Bacardi, or grappa. When people's livelihoods are at stake, the citizens get serious.

So, understand it's not an affectation when we name the wine properly in honor of the French who invented the method that grows the bubbles in a still wine, the process known around the world as *méthode traditionnelle*. (Old-schoolers say *méthode champenoise*, but that term became illegal in 2005.)

Therefore, the short answer to the question is this: The best Champagne is made in Champagne. But, there are great sparkling wines made all over the world, and many are better values than those from Champagne.

However, here's the real quandary in the form of a syllogism: All Champagnes are sparkling wines. Not all sparkling wines are good. Yet Champagnes are almost uniformly delicious. When was the last time you tasted a bottle of wine that said "Champagne" that wasn't delicious?



JASON STOUT

The longer answer to where they make it best is that Spain, Italy, Australia, California, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, and even other parts of France make delightful sparkling wines. And all of those places make bad bubbly, as well. We'll help you sort through the good and bad a little later, but first ...

What Makes Those Nice Little Bubbles?

The winemaker creates those tiny, nose-tickling bubbles in one of three ways. The worst, and in most cases guaranteed to give you a one-way ticket to a cranium wreck, is by carbonating a cheap wine. When you see very cheap – say, less than \$5 – sparkling wine, it's likely to be carbonated. In this process, they run carbon dioxide into the wine under pressure until the bubbles are, at least temporarily, mixed into the wine. This is the same process they use to make Coke, only these winemakers generally use something even worse for your body than a soft drink. As usual, as soon as we establish a rule – carbonated wine is evil – there is a contradiction, and it comes in the form of Sofia from Niebaum Coppola Vineyards, a tasty drink that I can tell you from experience doesn't leave you with the dead head. The reason is, she starts with good wine.

The next process a winemaker might use is called the *charmat* process. This is like an industrial-sized version of the original. Instead of fermenting in the bottle and trapping the carbon dioxide, the *charmat* maker uses huge tanks capable of withstanding punishing pressures and allows the wines to absorb the bubbles in bulk. Some very good wines are made this way, and if you have a trusted wine merchant who recommends a *charmat*-method sparkling wine, it's probably OK.

If the *charmat* wines are the Toyota Corollas of the wine world, the *méthode champenoise*, er, traditional,

continued on p.42

FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Throughout the year, we get all manner of correspondence from our readers – calls, e-mails, and regular mail – with tips about restaurants they like; thank-yous for pointing them in the direction of a good restaurant, market, or product; criticisms for our mistakes; requests for immediate reviews of beloved restaurants they perceive to be in trouble; and, in some cases, demands that we do whatever we can to rally the public to save a seriously endangered eatery. While we truly appreciate the interaction with our readers, it's sometimes difficult to convey the limited impact of this or any other newspaper column on the overall economic life of a restaurant. We can and do put the spotlight on places the public has yet to discover. We do what we can to draw attention to restaurants, markets, or products that impress us and perhaps even shape public opinion to some degree. As much as we might like to, we can't dictate customer preferences, or do anything about national diet trends (the no-carb fad's damage to the bakery and dessert business, for instance) except ignore them and hope they pass quickly. What we certainly can't do is forestall progress, overturn the smoking ban, or roll back increased property values.

Here is a prime example of what I'm talking about: Earlier this month, I got a sorrowful phone call from a long-time Austin restaurateur and an impassioned message from one of his young customers. **Gus Vayas** has been doing business as **GM Steakhouse** in Austin since 1962 and was closing up shop. "I can't really afford to retire yet, I've still got a family to support," the distressed man told me. Vayas operated a popular location on the lower Drag from 1962 to 1978, sold out and moved to a smaller place at 626 N. Lamar, where he served up breakfast and lunch from 1981 until just a couple of weeks ago. The GM Steakhouse on Lamar had an flat grill with seated counter service and a few tables. The menu was simple and affordable: breakfast steaks and eggs cooked on the flat grill, toast, and coffee, the walls faded from years of grilling and cigarette smoke. The surrounding neighborhood was automobile dealerships and parking lots; rents were low and property was cheap. During its heyday, the GM was the favored early morning hangout of powerful comptroller and then lieutenant governor **Bob Bullock** and his cronies. Vayas even has a plaque declaring his restaurant an official favorite of the Texas Legislature.

By the mid-Nineties, things had begun to change dramatically around the GM. The car lots and empty spaces were gobbled up and redeveloped. The corner of Sixth and Lamar became the hub of a new retail universe. **Whole Foods Market** and **BookPeople** built attractive flagship stores across the street; **Waterloo Ice House** moved in next door and began serving breakfast; and neighborhood property values began a steady and inexorable climb. By the turn of the new century, Mr. Bullock and his generation of lawmakers had retired or passed away, and their replacements somehow didn't adopt the GM as their spot. This year, Whole Foods opened yet a newer, more fantastic flagship store. The actual property where the little GM has stood for 25 years is now worth much more than the restaurant itself. Gus tried renting space to other food businesses in the evening hours and even extending his own hours to cover rent increases, but nothing really worked.

A young customer who spoke with a tearful Vayas on one of the GM's last days called to lecture me about the *Chronicle's* responsibility to do a cover story alerting the public to the potential loss of yet another local landmark and rallying support to save it, "like the **Hole in the Wall**." I don't have the space to go into the diverse economic forces that precipitated changes in that business, but suffice it to say, a greedy landlord wasn't the only problem by a long shot. And a greedy landlord bent on destroying what is truly weird and wonderful about Austin isn't what happened to the GM Steakhouse, either. The neighborhood changed, tastes changed, smoking in restaurants was banned, and much of Vayas' core clientele is just gone. As much as we hate to see anyone lose their restaurant, the life of the GM has come to an end. We wish Vayas and his family well.



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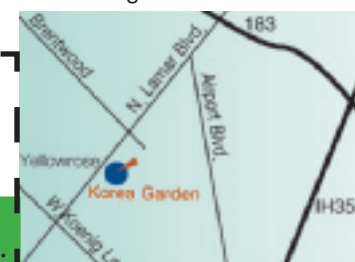
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wines are the Ferraris. In these wines, the winemakers seal the bottles securely, and the byproduct of the in-bottle fermentation, carbon dioxide, is trapped and forced to become one with the wine. This is a tedious process, requiring a lot of hand work that probably wouldn't pass muster with OSHA. During the process, the bottles develop an internal pressure three times as high as your car tires!

If you want to really delve into every nook of the world of sparkling wines, from their invention to their perfection, search out a copy of Tom Stevenson's masterful book, *World Encyclopedia of Champagne & Sparkling Wine: Revised and Updated Edition* (Wine Appreciation Guild, \$55). While that might sound like a lot of money, one discovery of a great wine makes it all worthwhile.

Which brings up another important question ...

Why Does It Cost So Much?

You can buy perfectly delicious sparkling wines at rock-bottom prices. One of the world's greatest bargains is Gruet Blanc de Noir, a \$12 wine from New Mexico that puts most \$30 wines to shame. And if you don't mind your bubbles big, both Chateau Ste. Michelle in Washington and Korbel in California make excellent wines for even less. Plus, Spain and Italy make delicious inexpensive wines from other, less famous grapes.

But the best stuff is always going to be expensive for three reasons. First, they have to use some of the most persnickety grapes imaginable: Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. (Note: If the bottle says "Blanc de Blanc," it's all Chardonnay; if it says "Blanc de Noir," it's all Pinot Noir; if it doesn't say either, it's a blend.) These grapes have to be precisely raised to get just the exact amount of acids and sugars to make sure the bottle produces the bubbles, and that takes a great deal of hand work.

The amount of human contact is the second issue that keeps the prices up. Besides all the work in the fields, each individual bottle has to be twisted each day to get the sediment down in the neck, so that it can be popped out toward the end of its life at the winery, and that's a task that no machine can accomplish.

The final cost issue for Champagne is that, by tradition, Champagne is aged in the caves of the maker until it is ready to be drunk. If you buy a bottle of Champagne off the shelf, there

is no need to let it age in your closet. Drink it! But the cost of that storage to the maker is extreme: They sometimes keep a wine for five to 10 years before releasing it.

Once you've seen the whole process at work, you might scratch your head and wonder how they get it to us as cheaply as they do.

Picks at Each Price Point

UNDER \$15

Gruet Blanc de Noir (\$12): A big, bold, gutsy wine with intense aromas and delightful flavors. In a blind tasting, I bet it would beat a bunch of true Champagnes!

Domaine Ste. Michelle Cuvée Brut (\$10): Chateau Ste. Michelle makes some stellar wines, but when you take a price-to-quality ratio, this is their top wine. Amazing complexity at the price.

Korbel Brut Rosé (\$11): Made from Pinot Noir and Gamay. Korbel makes so much wine and has been making it for so long, people forget what great flavors they offer. Chalk it up to owning vast swaths of some of California's best vineyard land.

Zardetto Prosecco Brut (\$11): A really nice, easy-to-drink Prosecco with lots of citrusy flavors. This is very close to the perfect aperitif, and you can regularly find it on sale even cheaper than this.

Conti Neri VSAQ Prosecco (\$12): Not as well known as Zardetto, but with very creamy, tiny bubbles and a bare hint of sweetness to counteract the Prosecco's natural tartness. Plus, if you buy this, you're supporting a local business that imports the wine from Italy.

\$15-\$30

Piper Sonoma Brut (\$18): This is a sparkling wine for those who like some oomph. Its toasty, almost earthy aromas make it a prime candidate for pairing with bread and mushrooms, perhaps with a young Brie on the side.

Montenisa Brut (\$26): The Italians are intent on proving they can make premium sparkling wines, and here is one of their best shots across the bows of the champenoise. Made mostly with Chardonnay, this wine is soooo smooth, with lovely green apple aromas.

Chandon Reserve Brut (\$25): When you're searching for a dry, crisp, elegant style, this wine is the perfect choice.

\$30-\$100

Bollinger Special Cuvée Champagne (\$40): Forced to choose, this would be my favorite Champagne. Put it to your nose, and you get a subtle spicy apple pie. Sip it, and it blankets your mouth with fine, creamy bubbles. Then you notice the taste: rich, complex, touching every iota of your palate. A bargain at twice the price.

Taittinger Brut La Francaise Champagne (\$37): Where Bollinger comes on like a 100-piece symphony orchestra, Taittinger has the finesse and style of a string quartet. The complexity and richness are there, but just a bit more quietly.

Charles Heidsieck Brut Réserve Champagne (\$38): This is a big, burly, rich Champagne, powerful enough to stand up to almost any food you want to throw at it. Try it with a rich dish where the Heidsieck's bracing acidity will cleanse your palate with each sip.

Nicolas Feuillatte Premier Cru Rosé Brut Champagne (\$39): The best pink Champagne under \$70, with delicious complexity, nice acidity, and a nearly floral aroma.

Billecart-Salmon Brut Rosé Champagne (\$70): I've never yet met a restaurateur or chef who didn't place this wine at or near the top of their list. The reason: It's a powerful, bone-dry wine that complements and never interferes with food. For the rest of us, it's a toss-up of whether you'll fall more in love with its lovely light red color or its mouth-filling flavors. Even at \$70, it's a great value.

\$100 AND UP

A note: At this rarified level, Champagnes become very personal. The easy choices are Dom Perignon and Cristal, because of their widespread availability and name recognition. They are not, in my opinion, the wines to buy. Every Champagne maker with a premium bottling attempts to create a house style that is completely unique. If you have the money and inclination (perhaps you could split a bottle among four people to ease the pain) it's worth occasionally trying one of these ultra-premium wines just for the experience. On the other hand, the increase in quality is asymptotic. The bottles below are some of the greatest wines on earth, but are they five times as good as a bottle of Bollinger? No. So, are they worth five times as much? Only you can decide that. But one thing you can

definitely say about these wines: You don't open them to celebrate an occasion; these wines are the occasion.

Perrier Jouët Fleur de Champagne Blanc de Blancs Brut Champagne (\$220): Don't let the gorgeous bottle throw you off. This is definitely not a case of a pretty face hiding a boring wine. Instead, the hand-painted flowers are in front of a wine so soft and ephemeral that it seems to simply evaporate in your mouth, leaving only a memory of rich complexity. You must savor this wine quietly to understand it. It's worth the trouble.

Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs Champagne (\$150): Fifty years ago, this was the first ultra-premium Champagne to be 100% Chardonnay, and its makers have used the past five decades to refine it into a masterpiece. The embodiment of elegance.

Pol Roger Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill Champagne (\$190): Churchill was fascinated by Mme. Odette Pol-Roger (1911-2000) and especially enamored of her 1928 vintage wine. She set aside all of the 1928 for him until it was finished off in 1953. From then on, she reserved her finest wines for Churchill. These were Sir Winston's favorite Champagnes. In fact, Mme. Pol-Roger made a specially sized bottle (20 oz., an Imperial Pint, which works out to 80% of a full bottle) just for Churchill. He would have one delivered each morning by his butler when he awoke at 11am. In 1984, the family decided to name their prestige cuvée for the great statesman. The wine is reminiscent of the man: ripe, powerful, mature, yet sophisticated and full of life.

So, When Should I Drink Champagne?

Now! Don't wait, and after the New Year, don't wait for the next. Champagnes and sparkling wines are some of the greatest joys we get from the world of wine. Don't wait for a celebration: Make a celebration.

Madame Bollinger, matriarch of the Champagne house bearing her name, once summed it up perfectly: "I drink Champagne when I'm happy and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company, I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I'm not hungry, and drink it when I am. Otherwise I never touch it – unless I'm thirsty."

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PUB GRUB: 219 WEST An attractive, comfortable place with exceptional small-dish food, great drinks, and a stunning wine list. 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194 \$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Not just for that morning cup o' brown brew, the Austin Java Co. offers an array of sustenance, plus luscious desserts. 1206 Parkway, 476-1829 \$

PUB GRUB: B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB With Irish music, excellent pub grub, and Guinness and Smithwick's Ale by the Imperial pint (20 oz.), no wonder there are always friendly folks belled up to the bar. 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335 \$

FINE DINING, FRENCH: CHEZ NOUS This grande mere of Austin's French restaurants offers classic bistro fare. After all these years, we're still partial to the Salade Lyonnaise and the elegant Mousse au Chocolat. 510 Neches, 473-2413 \$\$\$

INDIAN: CLAY PIT Best described as "contemporary Indian cuisine," pairing traditional Indian techniques and flavors with items such as mus-sels and salmon. 1601 Guadalupe, 322-5131 \$\$\$

CHAIN, DELIVERY, PIZZA: COZZOLI'S PIZZA Specializes in the East Coast style of soft and gooey thin-crust pizza that tastes best when you're standing on a street corner. 704 Congress, 480-8440 \$\$

BURGER JOINT, PUB GRUB: THE DOG & DUCK PUB The best fish & chips in Austin with many, many beverage options to accompany it. 406 W. 17th, 479-0598 \$

FINE DINING, SOUTH AMERICAN: DONA EMILIA'S SOUTH AMERICAN BAR & GRILL Specializes in the hearty cuisine of Colombia. Try the Soblebarriga la Criolla, a stewed beef brisket in sauce, and the Pandebono, a Colombian-style cheese bread. Dona Emilia's also serves Sunday brunch. 101 San Jacinto, 478-2520 \$\$\$

FINE DINING: DRISKILL GRILL Look for an enticing menu with an innovative twist on Texas and Southwestern favorites. 604 Brazos, 391-7162 \$\$\$\$

MEDITERRANEAN: LOUIE'S 106 Crisp, elegant, multitered setting for Austin's original tapas. Try the sardines. 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997 \$\$\$

JAPANESE: MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE Japanese & fusion cuisine in a modern and swanky, yet relaxed, setting. Find standard sushi offerings, featuring Edomae (sushi Tokyo-style), and some signature rolls. 311 W. Sixth, 236-9888 \$\$\$

EAST

BARBECUE: BEN'S LONGBRANCH BBQ Smokin' good barbecue with deep historical roots. Solid sides, killer banana pudding and cobbler, a great beer selection, and fork-tender meats keep the hungry coming back. 900 E. 11th, 477-2516 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: CISCO'S BAKERY & LIAR'S CLUB In the breakfast business for 50 years, they still serve good migas, huevos rancheros, and hot biscuits with healthy doses of Austin political history. 1511 E. Sixth, 472-4720, 478-2420 \$

BURGER JOINT: DAN'S HAMBURGERS One of several burger outlets operated by Austin's Hamburger King, Dan Junk, whose trademark has always been good, fresh food and friendly service. 844 Airport, 385-2262 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: EASTSIDE CAFE The only restaurant in town with its own enormous garden. That means they serve the freshest salads and vegetables in every season. 2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858 \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: EL CHILITO Taco lovers are lining up for takeout tacos, burritos, coffee drinks, and break-fast pastries. 2219 Manor Rd., 382-3797 \$

SOUTH AMERICAN, TEX-MEX: EL ZUNZAL RESTAURANT A cozy, comfortable place serving Mexican and Salvadoran specialties. We recommend the arroz con albondigas, the manscadas, and the pupusas. 642 Calles, 474-7749 \$\$

SEAFOOD, SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: MR. CATFISH Everything is made from scratch here. Catfish and seafood dinners with side dishes come in different sizes depending on your appetite. 1075 Springdale, 927-6666 \$

TEX-MEX: TAQUERIA LOS ALTOS Great location, conjunto on the jukebox, and some of the best enchiladas rajos around. 3301 N. I-35, 236-1219 \$

SEAFOOD: TERRY'S SEAFOOD COMPANY Terry knows how to batter up and fry right. Ample dinner boxes of shrimp, fish, and chicken. 1805 Airport, 477-3233 \$

LAKE

AMERICAN CAFE, BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: CAFE LAGO You'll be rewarded with fresh, delicious breakfast food, plus a healthy and inviting selection of soups, salads, and sandwiches. 1200 Lakeway Dr., 261-8141 \$

ITALIAN: CIOLA'S ITALIAN-AMERICAN RESTAURANT The sister restaurant of the Virginia-based original has been pleasing lake dwellers and Hill Country residents with its traditional Italian-American recipes. 1310 Hwy. 620 S., 263-9936 \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: FLORES MEXICAN RESTAURANT Still offering delicious grilled items, affordable lunch specials, friendly service, and good margaritas. 1310 RR 620 S., 263-9546 \$\$

CHINESE: PAO'S MANDARIN HOUSE Open 24 hours a day Monday through Friday, this Mandarin restaurant offers daily lunch and dinner specials. 2300 Lohman's Spur #130, 263-8869 \$\$

NORTH

ITALIAN: ANDIAMO RISTORANTE The personal warmth and hospitality of old-style restaurateur Giovanni Cocciante make this a special place to dine. Northern Italian specialties, good soups, and homemade pastas, and a wine list coming in March. 2521 Rutland, 719-3377 \$\$\$

JAPANESE: BENIHANA The cuisine has been infiltrated by its surroundings, producing the Texas roll, made with smoked salmon, avocado, cucumber, cream cheese, and jalapeño. 9070 Research, 451-7505 \$\$\$

recently reviewed

FINE DINING: STARLITE Devotees may miss the cozy blue house, but the charm is still there. Elegant and creative New American cuisine made with fresh, seasonal ingredients still complements affordable wine options. 407 Colorado, 374-9012 \$\$\$

ITALIAN: FINO RESTAURANT From the owners of the popular Asti Trattoria in Hyde Park come influences from Nice to Morocco, Italy to Athens to Valencia, all ably executed by chef Tristan White and his team. 2905 San Gabriel #200, 474-2905 \$\$\$

AFRICAN: T'S CAFE Go with a small army and safari your way through the menu of tasty and exotic stews, starches, and appetizers. 15608 Springhill #102, 251-4432, 913-1095 \$\$

ITALIAN: CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL Order from the pasta bar, sample one of the wood-fired pizzas, or choose a grilled specialty. The menu also includes the requisite manicotti, lasagna, and spaghetti options. 11590 Research Blvd., 345-8232 \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: EL ARROYO ROUND ROCK The northern outpost of this longtime Austin favorite offers the same menu: everything from breakfast tacos to late-night entrées. Don't miss the rollicking happy hour. 301 W. Taylor, 310-1992 \$\$

JAPANESE, STEAKHOUSE: KOBE JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE Steak, seafood, and chicken come in a variety of freshly prepared grilling combinations with generous servings of appetizers and soup. 13492 Hwy. 183 N. #380, 288-7333 \$\$\$\$

CHINESE: MANDARIN HOUSE A respectable and frequently replenished lunch and dinner buffet is the main attraction here. Popular items include General Tso's chicken and above-average egg rolls. 8929 N. Lamar, 837-6361 \$\$

BARBECUE: MANN'S SMOKEHOUSE BAR-B-QUE Traditional smokehouse values take the cafeteria-style line past a wall-height menu, a rabbit-quick assembly line, and out through a waiting cashier - all in record time. 8624 Research Blvd., 459-5077 \$\$

CHINESE, INDIAN: MASALA WOK Ethnic fusion that offers traditional Indian fare as well as Indo-Chinese dishes: a blend of wok cooking and Indian spices with plenty of vegetarian options. 1100 Center Ridge, 251-9696 \$

CAFETERIA/BUFFET: RYAN'S FAMILY STEAKHOUSE Try the Seafood Extravaganza on Friday nights for \$8.99. 1813 W. Parmer, 835-8366 \$\$

INDIAN, VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: SWAD INDIAN VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT The Thalli Platter is probably the best taste sampler for newbies, but you can't go wrong with the different dosas they offer. 9515 N. Lamar #156, 997-7923 \$\$

continued on p.45



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TEX-MEX: TRES AMIGOS Find all conceivable combos of menu items composing the dinners, plus specials such as chile rellenos, chimichangas, Fish Veracruz, and Steak Tampiqueno. 7535 Hwy. 290 E., 926-4441 \$\$

STEAKHOUSE: WILDFIRE Cozy steak house and grill with a pleasant atmosphere. The menu features oak-grilled steaks, chicken, seafood, and wild game with an interesting Southwestern twist. 812 S. Austin Ave., 869-3473 \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

MIDDLE EASTERN: ARARAT This popular temple of Middle Eastern cuisine oozes with atmosphere that is midway between a yurt and a Hollywood film set. 111 E. North Loop, 419-1692 \$\$

TEX-MEX: EL POLLO FELIZ Tender, juicy rotisserie chickens by the plate, whole bird, or party pack paired with reliable side dishes will make your wallet happy. 6801 Airport, 323-6604 \$

ITALIAN: FLYING TOMATO PIZZA KITCHEN Offers pizza lovers more than 40 ingredients for mixing and matching to make the perfect pizza. They have some excellent combinations already picked out. 1600 W. 35th, 419-1900 \$\$

TAKEOUT, TEX-MEX: FREEBIRDS WORLD BURRITO Fresh ingredients; a fun, casual atmosphere; and their patented "Bad Ass BBQ Sauce" make this place a must-try. Plan early for the lunch hour, when lines are out the door. 1000 E. 41st, 451-5514 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL Gotta have those batter-dipped fries, we know. But this spot at the fork in the road does other things very well, too, like fish, chicken, and beef. 4206 Duval St., 438-3168 \$\$

TEX-MEX: JULIO'S CAFE The vegetarian taco with perfectly grilled zucchini and summer squash is a favorite, along with the enchiladas, chalupas, and fajitas. 4230 Duval St., 452-1040 \$

KOREAN: KOREA GARDEN Fabulous-tasting lunch specials for around five bucks, and for dinner, large portions at excellent prices. A hip, homey spot with good, solid food at great prices. 6519 N. Lamar, 302-3149 \$\$

VIETNAMESE: LE SOLEIL One of the original Sunflower folks brings us a similar menu with a few new tweaks. Bottom line: It's good and dependable, and it's a fave of Viet families. 9616 N. Lamar, 821-0396 \$\$

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: MOTHER'S CAFE A welcoming vegetarian refuge since 1979, the completely vegetarian menu is a mix of Southern and Tex-Mex, and includes a selection of soups, salads, and heartier fare. 4215 Duval St., 451-3994 \$\$

PIZZA: THE PARLOR Fine pizza, flowing pitchers, and a punk feel come together amid the strains of a stellar jukebox. 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965 \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: QUACK'S 43RD STREET BAKERY Carrying on the tradition of slacker-era Austin, it is a great place to luxuriate over coffee and a muffin. 411 E. 43rd, 453-3399 \$

INDIAN: TAJ PALACE Austin's longest-established local Indian restaurant, where the royal court cuisine of North India is served in an attractive setting. 6700 Middle Fiskville Rd., 452-9959 \$\$

ITALIAN: TONY'S ITALIAN VINEYARD Count on plenty of garlic, tomato, and cream here. From pasta to eggplant parmesan, just about anything smothered in marinara sauce at Tony's is good. 2828 Rio Grande, 476-5600 \$\$

SOUTH

VIETNAMESE: 888 VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT You'll find traditional dishes seldom seen elsewhere and Asian fusion creations with Thai and Chinese influence. Delicious and inexpensive. BYOB. 2400 E. Oltorf Ste. 1A, 448-4722 \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: ABUELO'S MEXICAN FOOD EMBASSY Lubbock-based chain with both traditional Tex-Mex and adventurous Interior Mexican offerings. 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 306-0857 \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: AL PASTOR Mexican cuisine at low prices and the relaxed setting make this a great place for a quick, no-hassle meal. 1911-A E. Riverside, 442-8402 \$

PIZZA: ALJON'S PIZZA In addition to excellent pizza, this unassuming neighborhood gem serves lasagna, ravioli, manicotti, subs, calzones, and country-style barbecue. 1945 E. Oltorf, 851-8686 \$\$

BARBECUE: ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Austin headquarters where lovers of great barbecue and bluegrass converge. Their thick country-style pork ribs are legendary, and they have live music most nights. 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283 \$\$

PIZZA: AUSTIN PIZZA GARDEN A wide variety of pizzas on thin, white crust along with lasagna, calzones, sandwiches, and even muffedlettas. 6266 Hwy. 290 W., 891-9980 \$\$

TEX-MEX: AZUL TEQUILA Offers both Tex-Mex dishes and Interior specialties like Albondigas en Chipotle and Enchiladas de Pipian. Go with a crowd, listen to the music, and have some fun. 4211 S. Lamar, 416-9667 \$\$

PACIFIC RIM: BISTRO 88 Offerings include some of the more popular Pacific Moon dishes, plus an array of continental meat, poultry, seafood, and vegetarian items blended with ingredients from around the Pacific Rim. 2712 Bee Caves Rd., 328-8888 \$\$\$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: BROKEN SPOKE When you need your Lone Star cold, your chicken-fried steak hot, and the ghost of Ernest Tubb on your shoulder, the Spoke is it. 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189 \$\$

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: CASA DE LUZ Follow the walkway through herbs and flowers to the inviting, airy dining room for food that is organic, in season, vegan, and all-natural. 1701 Toomey, 476-2535 \$

ITALIAN: CRAIG O'S A comfortable neighborhood spot with pasta, pizzas, and beer. 4970 Hwy. 290 W., 891-7200 \$\$

TEX-MEX: EL GALLO Austin-style Tex-Mex since the Fifties. Family-owned for 42 years. Try the cabrito and stay for the mariachi trio that plays Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. 2910 S. Congress, 444-2205 \$

UT

BARBECUE: BERT'S BAR-B-Q The campus location of this popular chain still serves up the chicken that we crave. 610 W. MLK, 474-2613 \$\$

BURGER JOINT: BURGER TEX Build your own burger at this longtime, no-frills restaurant. 2912 Guadalupe, 477-8433 \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, DESSERTS: CAFE MATISSE We hear the food is as colorful as the decor and splashed with all the bright primaries used by its namesake. 2025 Guadalupe #152, 236-0207 \$

CHINESE: JADE CHINESE CUISINE Primarily a Chinese restaurant, but they do have a sushi bar with a limited selection. Best choice: the Eel Hand Roll. 3704 N. I-35, 459-6001 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: KERBEY LANE CAFE Famously fabulous for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a favorite of the late-night set. It wears its groovy legacy on its sleeve, with Frisbee-sized pancakes, pastas, black beans, and great coffee. 2606 Guadalupe, 477-5717 \$\$

CHINESE: THE MAGIC WOK Cheap lunch and affordable dinners that include soup and an egg roll. 2716½ Guadalupe, 474-7770 \$

PIZZA: MILTO'S Longtime UT-area institution serving both Italian and Greek specialties. Wonderful. 2909 Guadalupe, 476-1021 \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: MOMOKO Sushi, Japanese treats, and trendy bubble tea can be found at this popular spot. 705A W. 24th, 469-0232 \$

WEST

MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EASTERN: ALBORZ PERSIAN CUISINE Comfortable and unpretentious, Alborz captures the essentials of Persia's rich and astoundingly varied culinary heritage. The daily lunch buffet is highly recommended. 3300 W. Anderson, 420-2222 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: AUSTIN DINER Daily hot-plate specials include meat loaf with Creole sauce and pork loin over cornbread dressing. Try the sides of corn pudding or mashed potatoes with cheese and spinach. 5408 Burnet Rd., 467-9552 \$\$

ITALIAN: BELLAGIO ITALIAN BISTRO Don't plan on arriving late and having a leisurely dining experience - they like to close the kitchen as soon as the dinner rush starts to slow down. 6507 Jester, 346-8228 \$\$\$

BURGER JOINT: BILLY'S ON BURNET This true neighborhood beer and burger joint is a great place to enjoy hand-shaped patties, well-seasoned fries, and good vegetarian options. Great selection of draft beers and an excellent jukebox, too. 2105 Hancock, 407-9305 \$

INDIAN, MIDDLE EASTERN: BISMILLAH RESTAURANT First-rate food, spiced with complexity. All of the halal meat dishes are so tender they literally melt in your mouth. 6929 Airport #199, 420-8837 \$\$

INDIAN: BOMBAY GRILL Be sated by one of the biryanis, a spicy curry, or a tangy vindaloo. Try the Keema Naan, or the Aloo Paratha, whole-wheat bread stuffed with potatoes and peas. 3249 Bee Caves Rd., 329-0234 \$\$

SEAFOOD: CAFE JOSIE Look for inventive food and the rich spices of the Equator applied to high-quality meat, fish, and poultry. Nice surroundings and a small but perfect wine list complete the experience. 1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226 \$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: CASTLE HILL CAFE After two decades in business, this eatery has a fresh, new look, with a recently redecorated interior and updated menu items. 1101 W. Fifth, 476-0728 \$\$\$

ITALIAN: CIPOLLINA Offering roasted chicken, osso buco, and other meats prepared by the same masterminds who operate the Jeffrey's kitchen, this gourmet takeout eatery serves first-rate cuisine. 1213 West Lynn, 477-5211 \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: FONDA SAN MIGUEL Popular Nueva Cocina cuisine, which takes traditional Mexican ingredients and gives them a French spin. Try the white cheese queso. 2330 W. North Loop, 459-4121 \$\$\$

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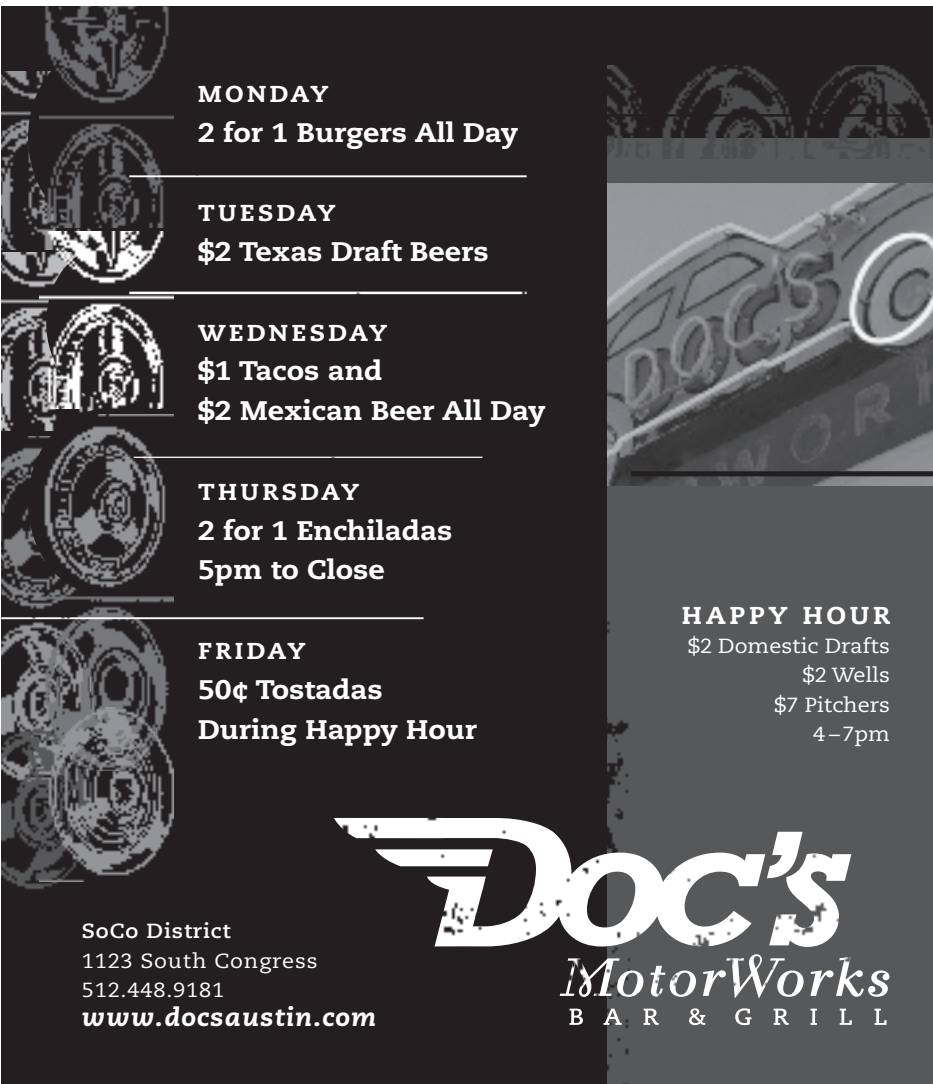
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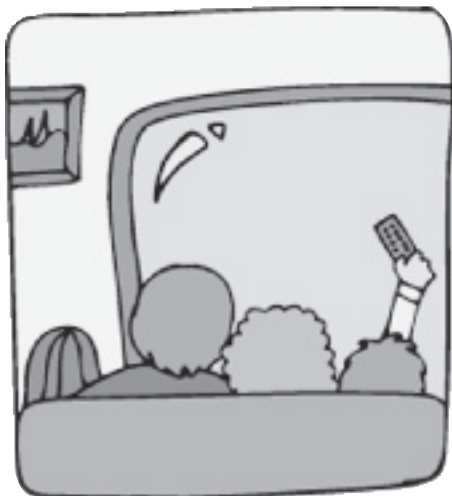
Last week, I launched a riff on “fascinating” TV-related events of 2005. Here’s where I left off.

This year, there was a lot of talk about indecency on TV. The broadcast networks had a “no fair” response to criticism, pointing to cable TV, the content of which is typically racier and doesn’t have the same restrictions as the broadcast networks. Family values advocates took up the cause, demanding more “family programming,” whatever that is. There seems to be some confusion as to what that is and, more importantly, who will define it.

The issue has gained so much momentum that Senate hearings on the subject were held. One early solution was to move to an a la carte method of purchasing cable TV. This way, consumers could pick and choose which channels they wanted to subscribe to (as with premium cable channels). Under former chairman Michael Powell, the FCC said no, saying it would be too costly for consumers. But earlier this month, current FCC Chairman Kevin Martin declared the a la carte approach desirable, in the consumers’ best interests, and “an ideal antidote to TV’s rising indecency,” according to a report on the latest Senate hearing in *Broadcasting & Cable* by John M. Higgins and P.J. Bednarski. Cable companies and operators are not happy. And besides, isn’t that what the V-Chip is for? Yes, but few parents use it. Why? Because it’s rarely marketed to consumers as a useful feature of their TV by TV manufacturers. If you notice, it’s often networks (like Fox) that champion the service.

In what looks like a high-profile response to family friendly advocates and to stay the move toward cable a la carte, Time Warner Cable announced the launch of a new Family Choice Tier last week. The new tier appears in early 2006.

“The new digital tier will include 15 family-friendly channels, and can be ordered by any customer who gets the minimum basic service tier,” according to a press release issued by Austin’s Time Warner Cable office last week. “This tier of service complements the 15-20 channels available on the basic service tier, which federal law requires be available to all customers. The basic service tier includes local broadcast stations, public/educa-



tional and government access channels mandated by local cable franchise authorities and other select channels.”

The 15 channels on the Family Choice Tier include: Boomerang, C-SPAN 2, C-SPAN 3, CNN Headline News, the Science Channel, Discovery Kids, Disney Channel, DIY Network, FIT-TV, Food Network, HGTV, La Familia, Nick Games & Sports, the Weather Channel, and Toon Disney.

The Family Choice Tier will cost you \$12.99 in addition to what you pay for basic service.

Case closed? Oh, I think it’s just getting started. Labeling something “family friendly” isn’t a cure all, particularly when it comes to content itself. Look at what happened with *Postcards From Buster* earlier this year. One oblique reference to a unconventional family (two moms) sent conservative “family” advocates screaming for more government control of the airwaves. However, do Americans really want the government to decide what’s appropriate for them and their families to watch? I don’t think so.

Another fascinating issue of the year is an old one: the ongoing quest for the brown dollar (i.e., the Latino market). Now, this one perplexes me on a number of levels. First, there was the push for diversity. Latinos, just like everyone else, want to see their stories being told. There’s been some improvement in that area. What is off-kilter are the ways Latino audiences are measured and, in turn, how they are marketed to. Why is it so difficult to understand that not all Latinos are Spanish-speaking – some Latinos speak English only – and that “the vast majority of Latinos are U.S. born (60%) but only make up a small percentage of Spanish TV’s audience,” according to a Tomás Rivera Policy Institute report, prepared with the Pew Hispanic Center from the latest U.S. Census. Because of this, AIM TV, which produces programming for U.S.-born Latinos, is challenging Nielsen Media Research (the TV ratings outfit) to upgrade its methodology, which AIM TV contends “skews towards foreign-born Hispanics who prefer Spanish language television.” No, this one is just getting started.

I could go on and on, but this is it for me for this year.

As always, stay tuned.

AFS CELEBRATES ITS 20TH, AND YOU CAN, TOO!

The Austin Film Society is turning 20, and, in January, the world-class safe house for cinema of all stripes from Austin to abroad will ramp up its programming in celebration of the art and culture of filmmaking – a celebration whose festivities, it must be said, are sustained throughout the year, nearly every day of it – while also celebrating itself for a while. On Jan. 9, AFS hosts the local premiere of Terrence Malick’s highly anticipated *The New World*, then launches its latest Essential Cinema series, Official Evil:

Political Thrillers in Cinema, on Jan. 10 (schedule below). And on Jan. 13, the thriving group debuts its newest offering: AFS @ the Dobie. We’re not sure what this comprises just yet, but the first title is the Chinese film *The World*, which was selected by guest programmer Alison Macor.

Amid all of this, AFS has published an 88-page, full-color *Retrospective*, an invaluable document including essays by founder Richard Linklater, *Chronicle* Editor Louis Black, *Chronicle* Film Editor Marjorie Baumgarten, Harry Knowles, John Pierson, *Texas Monthly* Editor Evan Smith, the Alamo Drafthouse’s Tim and Karrie League, former Austin Gay and Lesbian



International Film Festival director and Dobie manager Scott Dinger, cinematographer Lee Daniel, as well as the organization’s own Rebecca Campbell and Chale Nafus. Designed by Marc English, it’s the ideal public archive, rife with poster art, candid photography, and raw data about how the people over in that office pull it off.

If you’ve been to a movie in Austin, chances are you know

AFS. But to know it better (or even to become a member) – and to learn more about its anniversary celebration – see www.austinfilm.org.

– Shawn Badgley

OFFICIAL EVIL POLITICAL THRILLERS IN CINEMA

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Jan. 24 *Lumumba*
Jan. 31 *The President's Last Bang*
Feb. 7 *The Battle of Algiers*
Feb. 14 *The Edukators*
Feb. 21 *Tycoon: A New Russian*
Feb. 28 *Memory of a Killer*

FILM NEWS

BY JOE O’CONNELL

PRETTY GOOD, NOT BAD, CAN’T COMPLAIN

That’s the verdict on the Austin film industry in 2005. Could have been better, has been better, but not bad. Preliminary figures from the Texas Film Commission put the combined budgets of film/video projects shot in the capital city at \$78 million. The entire state took in just under \$140 million from 39 projects. Austin’s 19 projects included *How to Eat Fried Worms*, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Origin*, **Sarah Michelle Gellar’s** *The Return* (formerly titled *Revolver*), **Sandra Bullock’s** *Infamous* (formerly *Every Word Is True*), **Richard Linklater’s** retelling of *Fast Food Nation*, a pair of shoots from Burnt Orange Productions (*The Cassidy Kids* and *Homo Erectus*), and MTV’s *The Real World*. Quite a roster. But compare it to the 2004 statewide take of \$214.8 million (Austin saw \$151.2 million of that) or 2003’s \$230.2 million (more than \$192 million in Austin), and it’s beginning to look a lot like film incentives make financial sense for the Lone Star State. Not even Hurricane Katrina can slow down Louisiana’s incentive-fueled film-industry boom, which the Louisiana Film Commission estimates has brought more than \$900 million to that state since July 2002. And New Mexico isn’t far behind. Hey, Texas lawmakers, need more proof? How about the **Josh Hartnett**-starrer *Texas Lullaby*, a reworked *Hamlet* set in East Texas? Well, it’s shooting in Shreveport.

SCARY GARY BUSEY

Planning a February shoot hereabouts is *Hallettsville*, a horror/suspense film starring none other than Gary Busey, Oscar winner for *The Buddy Holly Story*. **Logan Brown**, **Derek Nixon**, and **Damon Change** are producing, and **Andrew Pozza** is directing. Busey plays the sheriff in a haunted little town between Austin and Houston.



SHE PROMISED YOU HEAVEN

Welcome into the world, **Rhiannon Elizabeth Rodriguez-Avellán**, all 21 inches of you. She came forth like a bell through the night on Dec. 8. Father **Robert Rodriguez** did indeed get naming duties, and, yes, he’s a closet Fleetwood Mac fan. Mom **Elizabeth Avellán** notes the name also hearkens to an incredible figure from Celtic mythology. Like her ultra-busy filmmaking parents, Rhiannon is in a hurry. She was born 10 days ahead of schedule and, we can presume, came in well under budget.

AND THE REST

Can enough Austinites have films in the 2006 Sundance Film Festival? Never. Add **Susan Youssef’s** “Marjoun and the Flying Headscarf,” a short film about an Arab-American girl coming to grips with her sexuality while bridging the mores of two very different cultures... Good news from L.A., where **Tracie Laymon** relocated six months ago. Production company Cineville (*Gas Food Lodging*, *Mi Vida Loca*, *Swimming With Sharks*, *Hurly Burly*) has tabbed her to rewrite the script for and direct *Attention Deficit*. A colleague who knows her from her short-film-making days in Austin was celebratory but unsurprised, saying the 22-year-old “definitely has the drive to become a major star”... Low budget? You want low budget? How about \$57? That’s the current figure for Disturbing Productions’ *Cry for Help*, based on a **Don Jolly** script about the Internet culture of teen suicide glorification... **Brian Satterwhite** has been selected to compose music for the IMAX film “Ride With Cowboys” slated for release in June. Satterwhite will spend the next three months writing music for the 45-minute film directed by **Harry Lynch** of Trinity Films here in Austin. The film examines the origins of cowboy culture in Spain more than a thousand years ago and its cultural development throughout the world.

Send tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.

New Year, Old Films

Mid-20th-century must-sees: Part I

BY LOUIS BLACK

About three years ago, some good friends told me they had just seen Otto Preminger's *Laura* and loved it. This seemed to me such an established classic that I was a bit surprised they had never really heard of the movie. Film tastes and cultural accessibility shift over time, however,

so I realized there were scores of extraordinary films – screwball comedies, dramas, and noir (as well as softer mystery stuff) from the 1930s through the 1950s – that were just not that well known. I'd figured most people had to be aware of them, but realized that few actually knew them. When repertory/arthouse/museum programming was the only way besides television to see old films – in other words, when I came of age as a devotee of the medium – the films I was thinking about were staples, as they were such guaranteed crowd-pleasers. Rental stores still carry many of these titles, but they're no longer featured in the way they once were. Often, you have to track them down.

The following list – primer, guide, whatever – is what I came up with for my friends. These films are of interest in many ways, but, unlike certain green vegetables that are nutritious but often unenjoyable, they're all desserts. Don't worry: Their textual and cultural strengths are barely noticeable unless you're looking. No “watch it, it's good for you” urging here; only sheer pleasure. In particular, the screwball comedies – which originated during the Depression, designed to mock the wealthy and satirize class difference while also normalizing it – are rich in brilliant dialogue and resonate more than ever today.

Most of what you'll find below are black-and-white. They are best seen that way: Beware of and avoid colorized versions of many of these films (various DVD companies present versions of many of them as they were intended; we've attempted to note the most recent releases). All of them are Hollywood Studio sound films. Many probably seem very obvious, and this list leaves out far more than it includes, so think of it as Part I. There are no Westerns, animation, socially responsible dramas, documentaries, or Jean Harlow films; no Hitchcock or Hepburn and Tracy. No comic teams: Laurel and Hardy is not to everyone's taste, and the Three Stooges sometimes offend. And if you haven't seen *Laura*, well, that, along with *The Thin Man* and *My Man Godfrey*, for instance, is a great place to start on a cold New Year's Eve spent amid candlelight, loved ones, good food, and a few bottles of wine.



THE THIN MAN

(1934; on DVD: Warner Home Video, \$59.98)

is probably the most obvious place to start – especially with *The Complete Thin Man Collection*, which came out in August – but if by some fluke you haven't seen it, it remains the gold standard. Starring William Powell and Myrna Loy as Nick and Nora Charles, a witty, loving couple that invariably become involved with murder. The first installment, based on the last novel by Dashiell Hammett and written and directed by W.S. Van Dyke II, is, of course, the best of the six films in the series. They all have much to recommend them, even the last two wherein there's far too much cute-dog focus on their beloved Asta.

The new box set is about as much fun as an older married parent can still handle. The charm of the film is the deep affection and genuinely witty banter between Powell and Loy, one of the few couples in contemporary fiction that actually liked each other, as Lillian Hellman has pointed out. The chemistry between Powell and Loy is so electric that it's no wonder it's long been assumed and even written about that they were married at one point. They weren't. Nora is a wealthy heiress with absolutely proper grooming who is not only fascinated by her ex-private detective husband but can hold her own drinking with him. Nick, though he can pass in high society, knows every cop, pickpocket, and low-level hood he bumps into during the films. If you, even secretly, wish you were somehow more debonair, witty, self-assured, and loved as well as loving, these will knock you out. Note: The films (*The Thin Man*; *After the Thin Man*, 1936; *Another Thin Man*, 1939; *Shadow of the Thin Man*, 1941; *The Thin Man Goes Home*, 1945; and *Song of the Thin Man*, 1947), which fade considerably after a few, are essentially mistitled after the first: The thin man of the title is not the detective, but the victim.



CLASSICS

***All About Eve* (1950; on DVD: 20th Century Fox, \$14.98):**

If you haven't seen this, stop reading, do not pass Go, and head to the video store. Brilliant Bette Davis heads an equally skilled cast in a film that is insightful as it is bitchy. Fasten your seat belts! Written and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, it won six Oscars, including Best Picture, and was adapted for Broadway as *Applause*.

***The Big Sleep* (1946; on DVD: Warner Home Video, \$19.97):**

A masterpiece of a detective story with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall at their most brilliant. Howard Hawks' direction is crisp though supposedly even Raymond Chandler, who wrote the screenplay based on his novel, couldn't explain at least one of the murders.



***Bringing Up Baby* (1938; on DVD: Turner Home Entertainment, \$26.99):**

Bookish zoologist Cary Grant, heiress Katharine Hepburn, and her pet leopard tangle, romance, and misunderstand in one of the greatest screwball comedies.



***Mildred Pierce* (1945; on DVD: Warner Home Video, \$19.98):**

It wasn't just wire hangers that made Joan Crawford notorious; she won an Oscar for this film about a housewife turned successful entrepreneur who ends up in terrible conflict with her neglected daughter. Dark version of James Cain's dark novel, directed by the doomed to be underrated Michael Curtiz.

***My Man Godfrey* (1936; on DVD: Criterion, \$39.95):** Powell again, this time with Carole Lombard in easily one of my all-time favorite films. Powell is a hobo picked up by a rich family in a scavenger hunt. Soon, he's almost one of the family, if you can say that about a butler.

***The Philadelphia Story* (1940; on DVD: Warner Home Video, \$26.98):**

This is a given, isn't it? Katharine Hepburn is very rich, though she isn't sure she wants to be; Cary Grant is her ex-husband; and Jimmy Stewart is an overly earnest tabloid reporter who would rather be writing novels. An adaptation of Philip Barry's Broadway play deliciously directed by George Cukor.



***To Have and Have Not* (1944; on DVD: Warner Home Video, \$19.98):**

During a game of golf, director Howard Hawks bet Ernest Hemingway that he could make a movie from his worst novel. He made a great one. Still married to his third wife, 45-year-old Warner Bros. star Humphrey Bogart meets 19-year-old ingenue Lauren Bacall making her screen debut: The rest came naturally, on screen and off. “You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together and ... blow.”

***The Women* (1939; on DVD: Warner Home Video, \$19.98):**

Again, this is probably obvious, but on the off chance you haven't seen it, this is the rarest of Hollywood films in that it is almost an all-female production. The star-studded film consists entirely of women and includes Rosalind Russell, Norma Shearer, Paulette Goddard, and Joan Crawford (viciously catty in a comic drama). Based on Clare Booth's hit stage play (later, she would add Luce to her name), it was scripted by Anita Loos and Jane Murnin. Only the most churlish, pedantic, and repressed would even suggest that director Cukor's testosterone marred the finished product in any way, shape, or form.



continued on p.50

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NEAR-CLASSICS TO LESSER-KNOWN TITLES

***The Awful Truth* (1937; on DVD: Sony, \$24.95):** The Marx Brothers' *Duck Soup* director Leo McCarey helms. Cary Grant and Irene Dunne, divorced and planning to remarry others, each try to wreck the other's new relationship.



***Ball of Fire* (1941; on DVD: HBO Home Video):** Barbara Stanwyck is a streetwise nightclub singer/dancer who, on the run from gangsters, ends up hiding out in the home of eight uptight, very proper professors (led by Gary Cooper) working on an encyclopedia. They are thrilled with her, begging her to stick around to help them define “slang.” Written by Billy Wilder and Charles Brackett. One of the strangest riffs on *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* ever. Stanwyck is hot!

***Champagne for Caesar* (1950; on DVD: Image Entertainment, \$24.99):** Early spoof of TV or spoof of early TV: It's up to you. Quiz show host Vincent Price freaks out when genius Ronald Colman starts getting every answer right. Price sends Celeste Holm to seduce Colman.

***Dance, Girl, Dance* (1940):** Directed by Dorothy Arzner, the only major female Hollywood director of the Thirties and Forties. I love this movie. Others feel it is less than it could be. Arzner directed two of the sexist films of the time: *Christopher Strong*, starring Katharine Hepburn as an aviatrix who, though independent, is devoted to her man; and *Craig's Wife*, starring Rosalind Russell as the worst shrew housewife, such a sexist portrayal! that one would love to call it subversive – as many have. Here, Maureen O'Hara and Lucille Ball star as working girls, in the older sense of those words. O'Hara wants to be a ballerina but ends up in burlesque, leading to one of the archetype-defining scenes of American cinema. Ball is wonderful!

***Design for Living* (1933; on DVD: MCA Home Video, \$26.98):** Based on Noel Coward's stage play; the great Ernst Lubitsch directs. Fredric March, Gary Cooper, and Miriam Hopkins compose a love triangle that features more innuendo than one might expect from a Thirties film.

***Easy Living* (1937):** Edward Arnold throws his wife's mink out the window, where it lands on working girl (and absolutely transcendent comic actress) Jean Arthur, and everything flows from there. Written by Preston Sturges.

***The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* (1947; on DVD: 20th Century Fox, \$14.98):** Cheating here, as I didn't like it when I saw it (several generations ago), but most everybody else swears by this fantasy of a widow romanced by the ghost of a sea captain. Directed by Joseph Mankiewicz and starring Gene Tierney (*Laura*), Rex Harrison, and George Sanders.

***Gilda* (1946; on DVD: Sony, \$19.94):** If you've never gotten Rita Hayworth's reputation, watch this and you will. The plot loses steam, but Hayworth just keeps getting hotter!

***The Glass Key* (1942):** There's a 1935 adaptation of Dashiell Hammett's novel with George Raft, but this 1942 version starring Alan Ladd, Brian Donlevy, and Veronica Lake is just so much better. The film still holds up as a surprisingly sophisticated political murder story. The Coen Brothers remade this as *Miller's Crossing*. Kurosawa claims this was an inspiration for *Yojimbo*, but that film was really



more an adaptation of Hammett's novel *Red Harvest*. (Sergio Leone's *A Fistful of Dollars* starring Clint Eastwood and Bruce Willis' *Last Man Standing* bear that same heritage.)

***The Great Man Votes* (1939):** Kind of lightweight. Garson Kanin directs John Barrymore as a washed-up professor fighting for custody of his kids who finds his status changed at election time. Ends up as an unintentional argument for redistricting.

***Heaven Can Wait* (1943; on DVD: Criterion, \$29.95):** Another great directed by Lubitsch. Don Ameche explains to the Devil why he should be let into hell. If nothing else, he had already been to heaven, as Tierney plays his wife in the role that convinced Preminger to hire her for *Laura*.

***Holiday* (1938; on DVD: Sony, \$49.95):** Cukor directs this adaptation of Philip Barry's play. A little stagey, but great screwball about Cary Grant's self-made nonconformist trying to fit into a fancy NYC family in order to marry Doris Nolan, while unconsciously falling for Katharine Hepburn, her eccentric sister.

***In a Lonely Place* (1950; on DVD: Sony, \$24.95):** A romantic, dark, and surprisingly adult drama featuring Humphrey Bogart in one of his best performances as a bitter screenwriter who drinks and fights more than he works. Then he falls for Gloria Grahame. “I was born when she kissed me. I died when she left me. I lived a few weeks while she loved me.” Grahame is vivid, evidently off screen as well, marrying director Nicholas Ray before leaving him for his son.

***It's a Wonderful World* (1939):** Lesser-known screwball is delightful with Claudette Colbert, Jimmy Stewart, and a terrific supporting cast. She's a runaway poetess; he's on the lam from the police.

***The Killers* (1946):** The first 10 minutes or so are a straight adaptation of Hemingway's famous short story, easily the most faithful film ever made of his work. The rest of the movie, directed by Robert Siodmak and starring Burt Lancaster, is a noir that clarifies the opening. Remade for television in 1964 with Ronald Reagan as the bad guy, it was rejected

as too violent, especially because one scene was vaguely reminiscent of Kennedy's assassination. So, it played theatres.

***The Lady Eve* (1941; on DVD: Criterion, \$39.95):** Preston Sturges deserves his own list, but I had to include this classic, in which con artist Barbara Stanwyck first tries to take and then falls for clueless heir Henry Fonda. He finds out and turns on her, so she turns it back on him.

***The Lady From Shanghai* (1947; on DVD: Sony, \$24.95):** Lesser known and lesser Orson Welles helmer, in which he also stars, still has more brilliant moments than most films. A thriller about adventurer Welles hooking up with Everett Sloane and wife Rita Hayworth on their yacht for a Pacific cruise.

***Million Dollar Legs* (1932):** Loved this one since Len Maltin and I saw it at MOMA when we were kids. Might seem a little silly. A bit like *Duck Soup*, if not as inspired. A traveling brush salesman (Jack Oakie) talks the president of a small country (W.C. Fields) into entering the Olympics because of the entire population's natural athletic talents. Featuring a host of minor comedians including Hugh Herbert, Andy Clyde, Billy Gilbert, and cross-eyed Ben Turpin.

***Murder, My Sweet* (1944; on DVD: Turner Home Entertainment, \$19.98):** Director Edward Dmytryk tackles Raymond Chandler's *Farewell, My Lovely* with Dick Powell reinventing his career by playing Philip Marlowe. A hard-boiled noir sprinkled throughout with great character roles.

***Nothing Sacred* (1937; on DVD: Westlake Entertainment Group, \$14.95):** Fredric March is a big-city reporter who exploits Vermont girl Carole Lombard's fatal exposure to radium for its tabloid value in this comedy (trust me). Remade as *Living It Up* with Jerry Lewis in the Lombard role (don't ask). Unfortunately, often overlooked these days, Lombard was a beautiful and truly inspired comic actress.

***Out of the Past* (1947; on DVD: Turner Home Entertainment, \$19.98):** Classic noir drips atmosphere with Robert Mitchum discovered hiding out in a small rural town after he double-crossed crime boss Kirk Douglas over Jane Greer. As the femme fatale, Greer is a revelation (not exactly as an actress). The film is in stunning blacks and whites.

***Road House* (1948; on DVD: Anchor Bay, \$14.98):** This film really runs out of steam by the second half, becoming a pretty standard melodramatic programmer. Club owner Richard Widmark is out to get old friend Cornell Wilde because he's become involved with singer Ida Lupino. The whole movie is worth it for Lupino singing “One for My Baby (and One More for the Road).”

***The Shop Around the Corner* (1940; on DVD: Warner Home Video, \$19.98):** Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan recently remade this as *You've Got Mail*. Still, Ernst Lubitsch directing

James Stewart and Magaret Sullavan in the tale of two-co-workers who don't like each other but are engaged in an amorous lonely-hearts correspondence is so much more charming.

***Sitting Pretty* (1948):** *Laura*'s Clifton Webb is an arrogant genius who accepts a job as live-in babysitter for Robert Young and Maureen O'Hara's suburban family. First, he tames the family; then, he upsets the community. Very funny and a favorite of my family's.

***This Gun for Hire* (1942; on DVD: MCA Home Video, \$14.98):** Alan Ladd is a hired gun looking for revenge who hooks up with Veronica Lake in her hair-falling-over-one-eye magnificence in this adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.

***Trouble in Paradise* (1932; on DVD: Criterion, \$39.95):** Two jewel thieves fall in love until he takes a shine to one of their female victims. Sophisticated, fresh, and brilliant, as director Ernst Lubitsch's work so often is.

***Twentieth Century* (1934; on DVD: Sony, \$19.94):** Producer John Barrymore makes radiant Carole Lombard into a Broadway star. Taken for granted, she leaves him, so he does everything he can to woo her back on a cross-country train trip. Script by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur with an outstanding supporting cast.

***You Can't Take It With You* (1938; on DVD: Sony, \$29.95):** Frank Capra brings Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's play about lovable eccentrics to the screen with a great cast including Jimmy Stewart, Jean Arthur, and Lionel Barrymore. Stagey, but the characters are so great!

TWO CULT CLASSICS



***Detour* (1945; on DVD: Alpha Video, \$7.98):** Insane, transcendent B movie after which Richard Linklater named his production company, has fate screwing hitchhiking musician Tom Neal at every turn. Also thumbing a ride, otherworldly Ann Savage just acting naturally proves to be as much a monster as any make-up-wearing creature in the history of cinema. Ironically, Neal later committed a murder similar to one in the movie.

***Gun Crazy* (1949; on DVD: Warner Home Video, \$19.98):** Peggy Cummins and John Dall are Bonnie and Clyde-esque in this B movie written by the blacklisted Dalton Trumbo despite the script credit. The two love guns and, it turns out, each other. Famous for director Joseph Lewis' shooting a bank robbery and getaway in one beautifully choreographed, very long take. ■

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54 ROKY ERICKSON
58 BEST OFS

TCB music news

BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

WARMING UP

Music and sports seemed to cross paths a lot this year, most tragically in San Antonio when **Ramiro “Ram” Ayala**, owner of storied punk club **Tacoland**, was murdered hours after the **Spurs** won the NBA championship. Eighty miles up I-35, a UT student who’d allegedly dismembered one of his classmates monopolized the media between the **smoking ban** and the **Longhorns’** march to Wednesday’s **Rose Bowl**. It’s been that kind of year. Spiraling casualty tolls from Indonesia and Sri Lanka began 2005 by putting any kind of leisure activity in perspective, prompting **Willie Nelson’s** tsunami-relief extravaganza at the **Austin Music Hall**.

Later, disaster struck much closer to home, and Austin opened its homes, municipal facilities, and checkbooks to those stranded by **hurricanes Katrina** and **Rita**; Willie needed the **Erwin Center** for that one. Relocating here were members of the **Neville** family and some **Iguanas**, who reconvened as the **Texiles**. Weeks of nonstop donations led to 2005’s trendiest local malady, benefit fatigue, from which **Jon Dee Graham** and son **Willie** were spectacularly immune in the year’s most heartbreaking and heartwarming family drama. For the **Grahams**, the region, and maybe the country, 2005 was about as bad as it gets. The local music community’s response when both one of its own and thousands of strangers were in need showed true championship form.

AUSTIN’S ALL-STAR TEAM

ROKY ERICKSON

2005 **MVP** and this week’s **Father Time** capped an inspiring comeback with an impeccable **ACL Music Fest** set.

WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS

Local indie-rockers became the first unsigned (for now) group to play **Austin City Limits** in the show’s 30-year history.

DARIN MURPHY

Won understudy role in Broadway musical **Lennon**, which tanked for entirely unrelated reasons.

JOHN WICKHAM

Elysium owner’s **City Council** campaign, though unsuccessful, brought **Red River’s** political maturity to a whole new level.

SPOON

The band’s best year ever started at **Trophy’s** and ends on *The OC*, *Veronica Mars*, and **Britt Daniel’s** relocation to Portland.

JAMES MCMURTRY

Though author of the **Bush**-skewering “We Can’t Make It Here,” the veteran singer-songwriter was still one of the few locals loaded into the presidential **iPod**.

PINETOP PERKINS

Ninety-one-years-young piano man received a lifetime achievement **Grammy** in January and one from the **W.C. Handy Blues Foundation** in April.

DANIEL JOHNSTON

Because he’s still with us and, last we heard, out of immediate danger and improving.

NIC ARMSTRONG & THE THIEVES

The shaggy Nottingham lads’ Austin residency was so successful they were reluctant to go back, even to open for **Oasis**.

RAPID RIC

Austin DJ invested early in Houston’s exploding national rap name, then turned in a **Bun B** remix disc even better than the *Trill* thing.

EMO’S NEW AC

The stickiest, sweatiest room in town grew frigid overnight thanks to about a zillion BTUs.

AMERICAN ANALOG SET

Instrumental troupe left on a grace note after 10 dreamy years.

TERRY LICKONA

Longtime ACL producer elected Chairman of the **Recording Academy’s** Board of Trustees. Not bad.

MIDTOWN LIVE

Too bad this popular northeast nightspot had to burn down for Austin to have a serious dialogue about its treatment of African-Americans.

DALE WATSON

Austin sang a sad song upon learning its honky-tonk treasure is departing, temporarily we hope, for Baltimore and a job at UPS.

HEALTH ALLIANCE FOR AUSTIN MUSICIANS

Workable, affordable health coverage for musicians? The year’s biggest hit, hands down.

TRAIL OF DEAD, THE SWORD, OCTOPUS PROJECT, THE BLACK

Austin Caravan of the Year, taking a great Friday night across the nation for six solid weeks.

DRAFTED

Local bands and artists recruited by out-of-town labels in 2005:

Sound Team, Capitol; **I Love You but I’ve Chosen Darkness**, Secretly Canadian; **Voxtro**, Cult Hero; the **Sword**, Kemado; **Yuppie Pricks**, Alternative Tentacles; **Black Angels**, Light in the Attic; **Shane Bartell**, Sarathan; **Pink Swords**, Gearhead; **Scott H. Biram**, Bloodshot; **Gorch Fock**, Rough Trade (UK only)

RETIRED

Locals, honorary or otherwise, who hung up their spikes for good:

CLARENCE “GATEMOUTH” BROWN, guitarist, fiddler, Gulf Coast shaman. September, age 81.

ALLEN DAMRON, singer-songwriter, actor, **Kerrville Folk Festival** co-founder. August, age 66.

Roky Erickson (center) and the 13th Floor Elevators, Houston, 1968

BOB SIMMONS

T.J. MACFARLAND, drummer, booking agent, talent scout. September, age 58.

RANDY “BISCUIT” TURNER, **Big Boys** co-founder, artist, collector, local icon. August, age 56.

VALA CUPP former **John Lee Hooker** vocalist, vocal coach. November, age 51.

DIXON COULBOURN, **Raul’s** archivist, **Idle Time** publisher. July, age 43.

JOE CLAYTOR, **Reloaded** publisher, club manager, promoter. July, age 39.

KATHERINE HASTINGS, performer and DJ known as **Pandora**. January, age 29.

ROAD GAMES

So that’s where all the money went: a (very) partial rundown of the year’s notable touring shows, many of them sellouts, broken down by venue.

ANTONE’S

Camper Van Beethoven, **Glenn Tilbrook**, **Smithereens**, **Damien & Stephen Marley**, **Neko Case**, **Irma Thomas**, **Robert Cray Band**, **Los Lobos**, **Devin the Dude**, **Chingo Bling**

AUDITORIUM SHORES

George Clinton & the P-Funk All-Stars

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL

Snoop Dogg, **Mars Volta**, **Interpol**, **Audioslave**, **Ashlee Simpson**, **Paul Wall**, **Modest Mouse/Walkmen**

BACKYARD

B.B. King & Bobby Blue Bland, **Jack Johnson**, **Tori Amos**, **Journey**

CONTINENTAL CLUB

Link Wray, **Bernie Worrell**, **Archie Bell & Roy Head**, **Marty Stuart**

ELYSIUM

New Model Army, **Cruxshadows**, **Gene Loves Jezebel**

EMO’S

Arcade Fire (January), **Queens of the Stone Age** (October), **Gang of Four**, **Mission of Burma**, **Black Keys**, **Aceyalone**, **Hieroglyphics**, **High Dials**, **De La Soul**, **Wrens**, **Yo La Tengo**, **Devendra Banhart**, **Architecture in Helsinki**, **Ghostface**, **Atmosphere**, **Feist**, the **Coup**, **Deerhoof**, **Phosphorescent**

FRANK ERWIN CENTER

George Strait, **Dave Chappelle**, **Dalai Lama**, **Foo Fighters/Weezer**, **Luis Miguel**

FLAMINGO CANTINA

Bernie Worrell, **Yellowman**, **Skatalites**

LA ZONA ROSA

M.I.A., **Jimmy Eat World**, **Bright Eyes**, **Kings of Leon** (March), **Ted Nugent**, **Stryper**, **Super Furry Animals**, **My Morning Jacket**, **All-American Rejects**, **MF Doom**

PARAMOUNT THEATER

English Beat, **Gavin DeGraw**, **Del McCoury Band**, **Ozomatli**, **Roberta Flack**, **Ravi Shankar**

PARISH

M. Ward, **Dizzee Rascal**, **Secret Machines**, **Raveonettes**, **Knitters**, **Stereophonics**, **Autolux**, **Autechre**, **Prefuse 73**, **Of Montreal**, **Kasabian**, **Mosquitos**, **Kid606**, **Rosebuds**, **Rogue Wave**, **Calla**, **Metric**, **Shout Out Louds**

SCOTTISH RITE THEATER

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STUBB’S

Nine Inch Nails, **Queens of the Stone Age** (March), **Death Cab for Cutie**, **Arcade Fire** (September), **Wilco**, **Social Distortion**, **Dwight Yoakam**, the **Faint**, **Common**, **Killers**, **Cafe Tacuba**, **Rilo Kiley**, **Jurassic 5**, **Heartless Bastards**, **Jesse McCartney**, **Molotov**, **Julietta Venegas**, **Kings of Leon** (October), **Billy Idol**, **LCD Soundsystem**, **Calexico/Iron & Wine**, **Broken Social Scene**

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Duran Duran, **Ralph Stanley**, **Alicia Keys**, **Richard Thompson**, **Mountain**, **Loudon Wainwright III**, **Jonathan Richman**, **Aimee Mann**, **Ben Folds**, **Aqualung**, **Blind Boys of Alabama**

IN THE BOOTH

TCB can’t list his favorite radio songs of the past year because the **Astros** and **Longhorns** had the dial stuck on 1300 **the Zone**. (Loved “Golddigger,” though.) One person who did listen is **Andy Langer**, who marks 10 years hosting 101X’s **Next Big Thing** in May. The station has several of his 2006 picks – **Arctic Monkeys**, the **Subways**, **Jenny Lewis**, **People in Planes**, **We Are Scientists**, and more, including Austin’s **Ghostland Observatory**, **Glass Family**, and **Mercers** – in regular rotation this weekend, and Sunday at 6pm, Langer counts down *NBT’s* Top 50 songs of 2005. He let TCB, and now you, peek at the local entries:

THE ARM, “D-Stressed”

BLACK ANGELS, “Black Grease”

CRUISERWEIGHT, “Goodbye Daily Sadness”

GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY, “Candy Rider”

I LOVE YOU BUT I’VE CHOSEN DARKNESS,

“I Want to Die in the Hot Summer”

KISSINGER, “Me and Otto”

MOONLIGHT TOWERS, “I Sleep Alone,”

“Never the Same Again”

QUIEN ES BOOM, “Brown of Fall”

SPOON, “Sunday Morning, Wednesday Night,”

“I Turn My Camera On,” “My Mathematical Mind”

THIS MICROWAVE WORLD, “The Party Line”

TRAIL OF DEAD, “Caterwaul,” “The Rest Will Follow”

WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS, “Selling Yourself Short,” “Hellodrama”

YOUNGMOND GRAND, “Pressing the Holes”

ZYKOS, “Above the Map”

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Starry Eyes

Roky Erickson Is Back

BY MARGARET MOSER

Roky I

“One of the great rock & roll singers stood on the stage with his arms crossed. He uncrossed them and crossed them again. He yawned. Then he sang a verse of one of his songs, ‘Don’t Slander Me.’ His once mighty voice was thin and couldn’t quite reach all the notes. He turned his back on the audience between verses. He looked beat. It was 1993, and Roky Erickson and his backing band were performing at the Austin Music Awards.”

— Texas Monthly, December 2001

If not that night’s performance itself, this description from longtime local writer and musician Michael Hall seared a disordered image of psychedelic pioneer Roky Erickson into the imagination of followers and readers alike. Small wonder: in 1993, Erickson was losing a vicious battle with schizophrenia, all but doomed to a lifetime of substandard living and mental illness.

More than a decade later, 2005, Roky Erickson is the very picture of Austin’s sly, laid-back, and plugged-in populace. Call it a comeback – *the* comeback, perhaps.

It began in earnest this spring, at South by Southwest. Performing with veteran garage rockers the Explosives at Threadgill’s Ice Cream Social; anchoring a SXSW panel on the 13th Floor Elevators, whose Texas Music Hall of Fame award he had accepted several nights earlier at the Austin Music Awards; taking in *You’re Gonna Miss Me*, a documentary on the legendary group at SXSW Film; not to mention signing copies of photo book *Easter Everywhere*, and Shout! Factory’s stunning *I Have Always Been Here Before: The Roky Erickson Anthology*, music’s 58-year-old third eye was everywhere, including this paper’s cover (austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-03-18/cover_big.jpg).

That was only the beginning. 2005 also saw him play eight more gigs, including August’s benefit for Jon Dee Graham’s son Willie, several other shows with the Explosives at Threadgill’s, and at the Halloween Masquerade a Go-Go. He played live on 107.1 KGSR. Then there was his September appearance at the Austin City Limits Music Festival, where hundreds of locals roared their approval at his transcendent performance under starry skies.

Erickson’s euphoric rise in the Sixties as lead singer of the 13th Floor Elevators is a tale of mythic proportion. Forget San Francisco: The Elevators were the original proponents



AUBREY EDWARDS

of psychedelic music, here in Austin, Texas. The drug busts and forced hospitalization that followed destroyed the band and began Erickson’s terrifying descent into three hellish decades of mental instability and frighteningly good recordings. Well-meaning friends and his mother, Evelyn, stepped in to make him well, but it wasn’t until his younger brother Sumner intervened that Roky came back into focus.

Like someone who’s been awakened from a long, disturbing dream, Roky Erickson walks cautiously through his newly reclaimed life. But make no mistake, Roky Erickson is back.

Roky II

“This is the most nerve-racking thing I do,” sighs Sumner Erickson as he straightens his brother’s Gibson, on loan from the company, on its stand. “I set up his guitars.”

Amid the chatter and good cheer of Waterloo Records’ annual Christmas party at Donn’s Depot, Sumner prepares Roky’s gear for a set with the Explosives, his 10th performance of 2005. Guitarist Cam King and drummer Fred Krc settle into their places while Chris Johnson tunes his bass. A Waterloo employee approaches Sumner with an envelope for Roky and one for the Explosives.

“I’m jumping out of my skin,” enthuses the employee, lathered up with anticipation for the show.

“Roky loves Waterloo Records and appreciates all you’ve done,” Sumner confides. “He enjoys playing these days and likes the opportunity to come out.”

“It’s gonna be the Christmas party to remember,” grins the employee, who shakes

More than a decade later, 2005, Roky Erickson is the very picture of Austin’s sly, laid back, and plugged-in populace. Call it a comeback – *the* comeback, perhaps.

Sumner’s hand and disappears into the crowd as Waterloo owner John Kunz appears. Kunz is good King Wenceslas overlooking the feast.

“Good party!” Sumner tells Kunz.

Kunz shrugs, smiling. “I just turn it over to a committee and let them do what they do. I was so surprised and happy when they chose Roky to play. Little did I know there was someone to please everyone and it was Roky.”

Kunz surveys the crowd. “Look, there’s Roky’s mama.”

As Evelyn Erickson, petite and pretty in black pearl velvet, sashays through the crowd, Fred Krc is handed the band’s Waterloo check by Sumner. Krc clasps him with affection. Troy Campbell, standing nearby with an armful of video equipment, announces, “Hey, I crashed the party! I slept in the bathroom all night just to see this!”

Sumner laughs and the two discuss the best angle to film the show as Krc goes to set up. Campbell decamps to a table overlooking the band, and Sumner hits the exit. It’s time to go pick up Roky, who doesn’t hang around before or after performances.

Picking up Roky is part of Sumner’s job as Roky’s legal guardian. The duties are enormous and require not only legal responsibilities but personal sacrifices. Roky’s not the ghost he was a decade ago, but he’s set in his ways. Routines are important to Roky, who doesn’t tour or play out-of-town gigs yet. Roky makes his own decisions, though, points out Sumner, noting he didn’t know his brother quit smoking cigarettes until recently when he overheard him telling a friend.

It’s a 15-minute round trip to fetch Roky and bring him back to Donn’s. Along the way, the brothers make small talk. Roky spent the day as he often does, watching the Cartoon Network. He’s pleased to be the subject of a story again. And he’s most concerned with getting to Amy’s Ice Creams after the set. That’s the topic as we enter Donn’s and Roky is greeted on all sides with hails of “What’s happening, man?” and “Hey, how’s it going?”

Hopping aboard the section of Donn’s that was once a boxcar, Roky settles into a seat in the corner. He’s wearing a dark shirt and a Southwestern print jacket, his long dark hair combed back from his face. A white napkin spread on the table before him holds three “communal cookies” on it. They’re triangular gingerbread cookies, pyramid shapes with white frosting eyeballs in honor of the evening’s musical guest, but Roky doesn’t eat them. There’s a childlike innocence to his expression, yet his eyes – clear, light blue – are sharp. They don’t miss a thing.

He’s quiet save for the occasional reply to a question. No, he’s not cold. No thank you to drinks. No food. A smiling nod acknowledges a couple on the dance floor who are grinning

in his direction. Sumner waves at him through the crowd. "It's time."

No one stops him as he heads to the band and hoists the Gibson over his shoulder. Partygoers crush toward the front as he strums a chord, its electric sound reverberating in the air. He looks back at Krc and Cam King, who both give the high sign. Under photographs of Elvis, Dolly Parton, and Kenny Rogers, Roky strikes the opening chord of "It's a Cold Night for Alligators."

The audience howls, pushed together and undulating as one vibrating mass. Evelyn stands on her toes, not able to see until the front row parts. Spying Roky standing only feet from her, she beams with maternal pride as the song ends and her son is met with a roar of approval. Then she looks down, mutters about her panty hose, and gives them a yank. Roky launches into "White Faces," then "The Interpreter," and "Bermuda."

"Thank you," are the only words he speaks between songs.

His voice is in excellent form tonight, as is his playing like the music itself: tough, confident. Guitar rock from any era, played with experience and verve, has no expiration date. Neither do these songs. It's been that way all year, each show better than the last. The Austin City Limits Music Festival set was a milestone, yet every gig is important to Roky because it's a step away from the haunted past and toward a bright future. The opening jangle of "Starry Eyes" fills the room, and the crowd issues a deep sigh of pleasure, mouthing the well-known lyrics, melting into applause at the end.

As the menacing "Two Headed Dog" rears its head and snaps to life, Roky barks ferociously into the mic, the crowd gleeful. It's another sing-along for the record store troupe, passionately bouncing in time to the song. Then comes the anthem.

As the band tears into "You're Gonna Miss Me," Roky's voice takes on the unearthly yowl that forever defines him a master vocalist and an electrifying performer. He basks in the glory of his signature song and its relentless beat. It closes the short set, but the audience won't let him go. "I Walked With a Zombie" is the encore scrawled on the song-list, but someone requests "Creature With the Atom Brain" and Roky complies. The song, unrehearsed, hits the mark to its final ringing note.

After the thunderous cheering dies down, Roky signs a few autographs and chats with

well-wishers. His face glows, obviously pleased with the attention. Sumner packs up Roky's guitar and stops on the way out to consult with Troy Campbell about the footage. Music rises in the club. It's the Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil." Roky slips out of the bar and into the clear night, only one thing on his atom brain.

Roky III

"That was one supercharged crowd!" Sumner crows enthusiastically, driving toward Amy's. "It was so cool of you to play the request! Awesome, brother!"

"Uh huh," Roky's voice is noncommittal, but he's clearly buoyed by the show. He and Sumner count performances in 2005 and come up with 10. The two are still reminiscing about Roky's most public year since the early Nineties as they walk into Amy's and order malts.

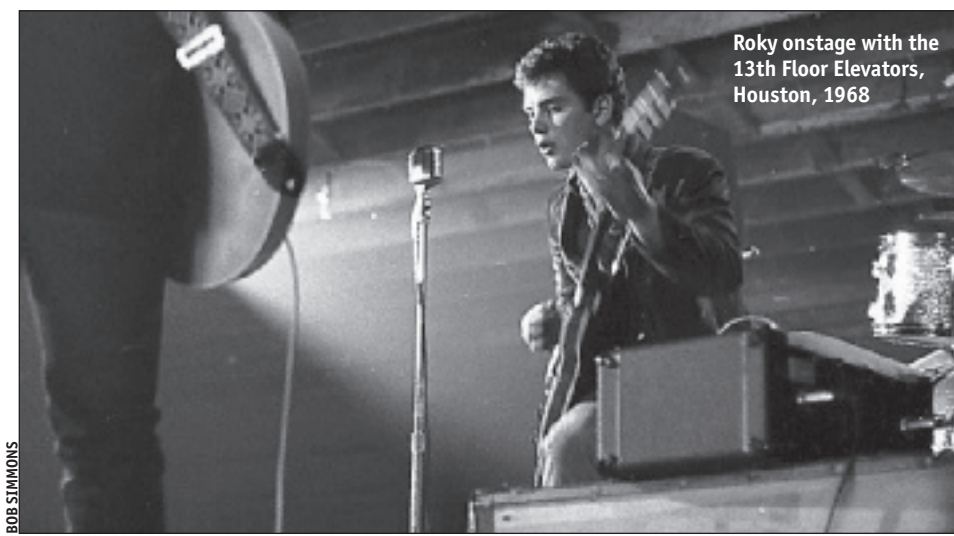
Sumner balances these gigs with his day job. Jobs, rather, as the youngest Erickson teaches part-time at both UTSA in San Antonio and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton. He also works with the Austin Symphony as a substitute tuba player, teaches private lessons, and plays the Young People's Concerts. He balances his life with the multitude of roles he plays in Roky's, which include but are not limited to brother, friend, fan, protector, and go-between. Tonight, he pulls out a sheaf of fan mail and reads it to his brother.

Roky takes the mail when Sumner's finished and scans it as the two slurp their malts. One letter is from a longtime fan who's been involved in an online Erickson/Elevators trading group that's deviled Sumner for more than two years. The other is from a musician in Chicago who recorded "I Have Always Been Here Before" and included a CD of it. The latter piece of mail is more and more a frequent occurrence as Roky's music creates a dialogue with every generation, always dumbfounded at the power of his sound.

"Let's listen to it," Sumner suggests, the empty malt cups tossed into the trash as we walk to the car. Next stop, Magnolia Cafe.

"That was good," offers Roky, assessing the song's interpretation as we're shown to a booth at Magnolia on South Congress. He doesn't elaborate nor does he spend any time reading the menu. Roky is a creature of habit,

continued on p.56



Roky onstage with the 13th Floor Elevators, Houston, 1968

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living in a manner that makes him comfortable and puts him at ease with the adulation accompanying in public wherever he goes.

Sumner makes a well of syrup in his pancakes as he talks about his life with and without Roky, who sits silent but is all ears. Sumner, younger by 18 years, was 3 when Roky’s first band, the Spades, released “You’re Gonna Miss Me” b/w “We Sell Soul” in 1965 on a local 45. He missed the 13th Floor Elevators’ halcyon days, growing up instead amid Roky’s frequent hospitalizations and subsequent fractured life. Sumner, like Roky, was a gifted student and musical prodigy.

Music took Sumner down a very different road, however, one that led to a 20-year-plus stint as principal tubaist with the prestigious Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under the direction of André Previn. Sumner was reaping the benefits of life as a classical musician when his brother’s friends in Texas decided Roky needed family support beyond Evelyn’s efforts. Roky’s teeth were bad, and he was suffering, living in government subsidized housing off Social Security. Roky’s friends contacted Sumner and legal machinery began to crank. On June 13, 2001, after a five-month court battle that pitted him against his mother, Sumner was declared “Guardian of the Person and Estate of Roger Kynard Erickson.”

Sumner moved Roky to Pittsburgh, continuing his orchestra duties while making sure Roky was away from old habits and monitored for medication. The Erickson boys (there are three other Erickson sons) saw their father, who also lived in Three Rivers city, occasionally. Roky spent just over a year there, got his teeth fixed, and returned to Texas on his birthday in July 2002. Sumner followed in 2004; his career with the symphony ended on a sour note.

The break from the classical world gave Sumner impetus to try something different with music. With his band the Texcentrics, he covers Texas songwriters like Cindy Walker, Buddy Holly, Big Bopper, and, yes, his big brother. Nepotism, snipe occasional onlookers who see the Texcentrics scoring primo opening gigs in town. Sumner’s lived with criticism of all colors, stating on his Web site, “I am Roky’s youngest brother enjoying the shade of the long shadow he casts.”

Cam King

Had Tobe Hooper not chosen Cam King’s “Circuit Queen” for the original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, Marcia Ball might never have picked the song for her Capitol Records debut in 1978. Two years after being hailed for his country compositions, the New Mexico-by-way-of-Texas guitarist-songwriter put down his acoustic guitar, plugged in an electric, and founded the Explosives with Freddie Krc and Waller Collie. Within a few months, the New Wave power trio shared a stage with Roky Erickson. King moved to L.A. in the mid-Eighties and then Nashville in 1991, where his songwriting career took root.

That’s the short version of Cam King’s life, one that glosses over his time in San Antonio playing with Joker Moon, years in Austin bartending and playing in bands, and the sporadic success that came from those efforts. King played in the Grand Ole Opry, auditioned for Johnny Cash, and hob-



Sumner flashes a V with his fingers behind the head of his brother, who grins at the antics as the camera flashes repeatedly. In that moment, all the troubles and pain of years gone recede in the play of a pair of boyish siblings.

AUBREY EDWARDS

Yet if the Texcentrics enjoy occasional familial favoritism, Sumner’s 2005 CD, 24 *Melodious Etudes for Tuba by S. Vasiliev*, is testimony to his professional aptitude. It will

come as a surprise to anyone who thinks of tuba as the circus clown of orchestral instruments. In Sumner’s hands, Vasiliev’s compositions take on a deep bass life of their own,



GARY MILLER

nobbed with Nashville royalty. When a band called Lonestar recorded King’s composition “Heartbroke Everyday,” it went to No. 15. After Garth Brooks recorded King’s Christmas gospel rocker “Baby Jesus Is Born,” it appeared King was in Nashville for good. For good, that is, until he was bewitched by local songbird Kim Miller, whom he lured to his farm in Tennessee before the two relocated back to her digs in Wimberley this year.

That move brought King not only peace of mind, but the chance to build his own Hardscrabble Recording Studio. Earlier this year, King and Krc released *KaBOOM!*, a 2-CD anthology of the Explosives music (austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-02-11/music_phases9.html). He and Miller pursue their music individually and together, often performing around Wimberley. Moving back to Texas also afforded King the chance to regroup the Explosives, who added Chris Johnson

of McLemore Avenue on bass. King’s powerful guitar leads frame Roky’s gorgeous ballads and fuel-powered rockers, while his rubber-faced expressions convey good humor and a finely sharpened wit.

Krc is beyond pleased with the situation. “Cam has been my best friend for 25 years, and we work unbelievably well together, always have. We never have to discuss what the other wants musically, we work by instinct.” It goes without saying that “both of us really enjoy playing with Roky again, too.”

– M.M.

Sumner’s rightfully proud of his contributions to Roky’s recovery, noting that Roky has a driver’s license for the first time in decades, owns a car, and voted last year.

the ungainly brass instrument as expressive as strings or woodwinds.

The youngest Erickson brother is rightfully proud of his contributions to Roky’s recovery, noting that Roky has a driver’s license for the first time in decades, owns a car, and voted last year. Another source of pride is Roky’s son, Jegar, who produces *The Austin Movie Show* (Roky also has two daughters, Spring and Cydne). Sumner’s also protective of his mother, Evelyn, insistent that their relationship was twisted in the media after the battle for Roky’s guardianship almost five years ago.

“I never said she was a bad person,” he clarifies. “I said there were things she was doing that were bad. I never damned her. I only wish her the best. After seeing the documentary, she wrote me a letter and said, ‘I never realized how stressed out I was. Ask Keven [McAlester, director of *You’re Gonna Miss Me*] if he’ll let me make a postscript saying I’m grateful for what he did.’

“I told her just the other day, ‘It wasn’t ever really about you, it was about me.’ She corrected me and said, ‘It was about me. I just didn’t understand what you wanted to do.’ Now, she couldn’t be happier and I couldn’t be happier.”

The subject turns to eBay, where Sumner recently bought back one of Roky’s guitars from the Elevators days and another through a collector. This leads back to discussion of Sumner’s battle with the online trading group that he’s tried to make peace with. The problem, according to him, is that the group releases not only unlicensed live material, but licensed studio recordings as well.

“I’ve told them, ‘I will let you speak to everybody. To my judge, to the guardianship attorney, to [attorney] Rick Triplett, everybody. Let’s find every legal way to exploit Roky’s music, for sure. But I can’t be a part of anything that’s illegal.’”

A familiar four chords explodes through Magnolia’s sound system. It’s “You’re Gonna Miss Me,” but it takes Roky a moment to realize it. Buttermilk pancakes are quite distracting. The song reminds Roky about all the films that use his music, such as the opening scene of *High Fidelity*, and especially his desire for a copy of *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. It also reminds Roky of a biopic being bandied about.

“Jack Black called up and said he didn’t want to do it,” says Roky, spearing a bite of pancake. “He said he couldn’t handle my part.”

Afraid he couldn’t step into your shoes?

Roky pauses, the pancake on his fork in mid-air. The look in his eye is positively wicked and his reply delivered with a veteran comedian’s timing.

“We sell sole.”

Roky IV

"Sorry about your car."

Two nights later, Roky examines the gaping hole in my Mazda's dashboard, where some ratbag ripped out the stereo a few days earlier. He locks the door and buckles his seat belt.

He likes listening to the radio, specifically BOB FM and its familiar mix of old favorites. The radio is usually on at his apartment, even when the television is playing, a throwback to the days when he kept a cacophony of electronic media blaring simultaneously to drown out the voices in his head. Today, the volume is no longer head-splitting; the radio's by the kitchen, while the television's in the living room.

The sore subject of a stolen car stereo makes this evening's driver grumble about stringing up the thieving bastards. Roky clucks sympathetically as we pull up alongside Waterloo Records and park in front of Amy's. He strolls inside and stops below the chalkboard display of ice cream specials. There it is: The Roky, drawn in red and green chalk with a pyramid to suggest the Elevators' first LP cover, and advertising his beloved sweet cream ice cream malt. Sumner's inside, too, waiting for us.

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" he sings in greeting.

Roky and I had been on 37th Street two nights earlier for a photo shoot, but Sumner was sick and we're all making up the session now. Three malts are ordered. Roky paces in anticipation.

"Are you coming to Threadgill's with us?" Roky quizzes Sumner.

"No," says Sumner, digging his hands into the pockets of his jacket. "I've got a party to go to."

Roky's head bobs in assent. The photographer arrives, as do the malts.

"I'd like to see the two of you posed back here," I indicate the exit stairs at the back of Amy's as the camera setup begins.

"Do I have to sit on the steps?" asks a skeptical Roky.

"No, not if you don't want to, you can stand."

"I'd rather stand." Roky's expression changes, foxlike. "Then I want to be photographed by the cow." The wall opposite him features a brightly painted cow.

"We can shoot you by the cow."

The brothers Erickson are posed in different positions as the photographer snaps away. After a few minutes of stiff demeanor, Roky and Sumner relax. Sumner flashes a V with his fingers behind the head of his brother, who grins at the antics as the camera flashes repeatedly. In that moment, all the troubles and pain of years gone recede in the play of a pair of boyish siblings.

Roky V

"Look."

Roky leads the way out of Amy's to the front of Waterloo Records. He plants himself before the huge poster advertising the Shout! Factory anthology, *I Have Always Been Here Before*. (austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-03-04/music_phases.html)

"Were you happy with the collection?"

"Yes, I really liked it." A young man with a bleached goatee enters the store ahead of us and holds the door open, his face registering recognition as surprise when Roky Erickson glides past.

"I'm over here," motions Roky, walking directly to the end of an aisle near the main registers. Two of his CDs are on display in the E section, and we thumb through the bin inspecting the other titles.

"I don't know the songs on this one very well, except 'Starry Eyes' and 'Don't Slander Me,'" I confess while examining *All That May Do My Rhyme*. He gives me a sideways glance. "You would if you heard them." He's probably right.

"The Elevators are over here," he beckons, already a few aisles away. We need not search; a CD copy of *Easter Everywhere*, the band's second album from 1967, lies askew atop the T section.

"Is that a sign?" I tease Roky.

"Yes." He slides *Easter Everywhere* back into the stack.

"That's got my favorite Elevators song on it," I tell him. "'Slip Inside This House.' What's your favorite Elevators song to sing?"

Roky gives me a wily look, the gleam in his blue eyes starry.

"You're Gonna Miss Me." ■

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, Roky Erickson made his 11th appearance of the year to a full house at Shoal Creek Saloon fronting the Nortons' rhythm section of John X Reed, Speedy Sparks, and Rusty Trapps. He sang "Starry Eyes" and "Don't Shake Me, Lucifer."

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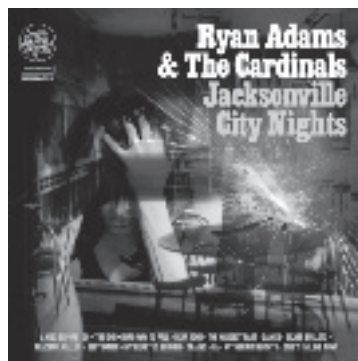
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ORANGE MOTHERS***Greatest Hits (I Eat Records)***

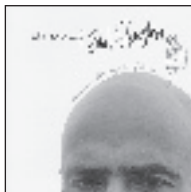
Ethan Azarian must be an ancestor of Hans Christian Andersen, or perhaps a seventh cousin, twice removed, of Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm. Azarian writes songs of the fantastic and surreal, twisted up with just the right amount of dysfunction. His Orange Mothers have become an Austin institution since their migration South from Vermont in the Eighties. Azarian's tunes of heaven and love, spaceships and jellyfish keep Austin weird all on their own. Orange Mothers' *Greatest Hits* is a book of fairy tales, each one specifically relegated to a particular place and time: youth, family outings, carnival rides. Sampling the Mothers' five LPs – from 1991's *Money Store* as the Hollywood Indians ("Young Girl") to 2002's delicate *Traditional Love* ("Roller Coaster Girl," "Promised Land") – *Greatest Hits* spins it storied pop. Opening with the seminal "Heaven," Azarian dashes through alien invasions and hand-holding straight through to what's possibly the definitive Mothers song yet: "Family Affair Pt. 1." Ethan Azarian, Jeff Johnston, Tim Audy, and James Welch are family. And it's about time the family tree pulled all the folklore and fantasy into one leather-bound, dust-ridden tome.



– Darcie Stevens

SHEL SILVERSTEIN***The Best of Shel Silverstein: His Words His Songs His Friends (Columbia)***

It's disconcerting to associate the literary icon of your youth with songs and poems about getting stoned and doing naughty things with naughty girls. But to love Shel Silverstein is to love the joie de vivre of a story like "Peanut Butter Sandwich" as well as the bawdiness of "Freakin' at the Freakers' Ball." Silverstein's entire oeuvre is cherry-picked here, performed by his friends Johnny Cash, Bobby Bare, Willie Nelson, and Kris Kristofferson.



– Melanie Haupt

JOHNNY CASH***The Legend of Johnny Cash (Hip-O)***

The irony of the sprawling box set/book *Cash* is that most of the Man in Black's common-man subjects couldn't afford such a tribute. *Legend* fills that gap with a single disc retrospective of nothing but the hits ("Folsom Prison Blues," "I Walk the Line," "Ring of Fire") and then some ("Jackson" with June Carter, "Highwayman" with Waylon and Kris, "The Wanderer" with U2). Affordable, portable, and always in fashion, no one did it like Johnny Cash.



– Margaret Moser

ROSANNE CASH***The Very Best of Rosanne Cash (Columbia/Legacy)***

If you're someone who wants just one Rosanne Cash disc, this might be it. With 16 tracks, it highlights all facets of her career, from

rockabilly ("My Baby Thinks He's a Train") and Top 40 country ("Seven Year Ache") to distinguished singer-songwriter ("What We Really Want"). Duets with her father and Bobby Bare and a previously unreleased version of "Never Be You" make this set even more worthwhile.

★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri

TODD SNIDER***That Was Me 1994-1998 (Hip-O)***

With 17 songs from the three albums Snider recorded for Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville label, plus a previously unreleased grunge version of Buffet's signature tune, this is a commendable primer to the former San Marcos-based singer-songwriter's early days. Those that know Todd from his more recent acoustic persona might be surprised at the louder version presented here, but "Trouble," "Easy Money," and "Horseshoe Lake" prove that his ability to write tough, witty, and insightful songs has rarely waned.

★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri

TINDERSTICKS***Working for the Man: The Greatest Hits (Koch)***

Though London's merry-widow sextet jumped labels two albums ago, this previously overseas sampling of the Tindersticks' first four releases still marks its boundaries like a bleached skeleton. One bunny slipper from the *Nenette et Boni* soundtrack only hints at the 'Sticks tributaries (Lee Hazlewood, Townes Van Zandt), but when the Peter Gunn drama of "Her" meets the stringed elegance of "Tiny Years" in "Bathtime," Stuart Staples' impossibly rich narration leaves no doubt who's the Man.

★★★★

– Raoul Hernandez

JOHNNY ADAMS***The Great Johnny Adams Blues Album (Rounder)***

A soul crooner early in his career, Johnny Adams (1932-1998) explored the blues when he began recording on Rounder in 1984. These 12 tunes from that period reveal his ability to dig down deep on songs written by Doc Pomus ("Imitation of Love"), Percy Mayfield ("Danger Zone"), and Sam Cooke ("Laughin' and Clownin'"), yet remain singularly serene. While not the best introduction to Adams' overall body of work, *Great* is ideal for late-night chill-outs.

★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri

SHIRLEY HORN***But Beautiful: The Best of Shirley Horn (Verve)***

Jazz singer/pianist Shirley Horn died in October, within days of this album's release, and with her departure went one of our elegant interpreters of song. Horn possessed a delicate but intense intimacy that few singers have ever attained. And who else could call on Miles Davis to appear as a sideman? This single-disc



collection is a representative cross-section of her past decade's work. An added bonus is three live tracks from January at NYC's Au Bar. Sweet.

★★★★

– Jay Trachtenberg

BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS***Africa Unite: The Singles Collection (Tuff Gong)***

Otherwise needless mix built around the first family-sanctioned vault release in a decade. 1979's "Slogan" undulates like its era, *Survival/Uprising*, as produced by scions Stephen and Ziggy Marley and guitarted up by Eric "I Shot the Deputy" Clapton.

★★

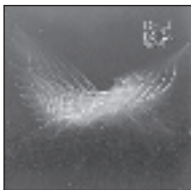
– Raoul Hernandez

**DEAD CAN DANCE*****Memento: The Very Best of Dead Can Dance (4AD/Rhino)***

Think of this as the best of a best of a best-of compilation. The dreamy, atmospheric brainchild of Lisa Gerrard and Brendan Perry, Dead Can Dance took 2003's *Wake*, which summed up their 2001 box set, 1981-1998, and distilled it even further down to 15 tracks. DCD's music is as ambient as it is ancient, with Euro flourishes and yearning electronica. The perfect stocking stuffer.

★★★★

– Margaret Moser

**THE BETA BAND*****The Best of the Beta Band (Astralwerks)***

Why did Scotland's Beta Band break up after four albums and eight years? Because planet Earth never appreciated brilliant songs like "Dry the Rain" and "Squares." This 16-track retrospective has no hits, only high-lights, from a psychedelic and sometimes-extra-terrestrial band. The bonus live disc, from their final show in November 2004, is proof they were the closest thing Scotland ever had to a jam band that could actually rock.

★★★★

– Matt Dentler

**NEW ORDER*****Singles (Rhino/WEA)***

Thirty-one UK singles and not one that doesn't make you pine for Manchester, Factory Records, and the late, lamented Hacienda. 2005 marks the 25th anniversary of the death of Joy Division's twitchily alluring frontman Ian Curtis, but sans that tragic necktie party, New Order's dance-floor soiree might never have been. Weep not for Curtis' abbreviated tenure, but instead rejoice in the remarkable (and as-yet-ceaseless) subcultural ceremony that resulted in this 2-CD pop kiss of hedonist intellectuals with groove to spare.

★★★★

– Marc Savlov

**NIRVANA*****Sliver: The Best of the Box (Geffen)***

Even bootleggers will find these 75 minutes among the most depressing ever associated with music industry warhorse slogan "best of." Eighteen of *Sliver*'s 22 demos, etc. went

unreleased until last year's 3-CD rarities/outtakes box, *With the Lights Out*, its trio of "new" tracks well camouflaged by the prehistoric boombox sonics of this shard of glass in the eye.

★★

– Raoul Hernandez

**RICHARD HELL*****Spurts: The Richard Hell Story (Rhino)***

Spurts proves Richard Hell's influence and importance on early punk rock. Spanning his entire career – the Neon Boys, Television, the Heartbreakers, and Voidoids – high points include a 1974 live version of "Blank Generation" from CBGB, an early demo of "Love Comes in Spurts" from 1973, and "Chinese Rocks" with Johnny Thunders on guitar. Brash track-by-track commentary from Hell with Robert Christgau and Carola Dibbell make this set essential.

★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri

**BEASTIE BOYS*****Solid Gold Hits (Capitol)***

With only three songs not found on 1999's career-spanner *The Sounds of Science*, the Beastie's latest is for newbies only. Trimming the fat down to the 15 essential singles to date, *Solid Gold* sifts through the classics, "Sabotage" to "Brass Monkey," while proving NYC's hip-hop innovators have become frozen in time.

★★

– Matt Dentler

**SNOOP DOGG*****The Best of Snoop Dogg (Capitol)***

Nizzle from Death Row – thanks, Suge – and no "Drop It Like It's Hot" because that's Geffen's. Here instead is Snoop's seldom-plumbed Middle Period, the No Limit years through 2002's *Paid the Cost to Be Da Bo\$\$*. More than a half-decade of creative meandering and steadily improving MC skills, "Woof!" dates itself instantly, but primo G-funk from Dre on "Bitch Please" and the Neptunes' slithery perfection on "From the Chuuuuch to the Palace" reflect the Doggfather in fine form indizzle.

★★★★

– Christopher Gray

**EMINEM*****Curtain Call: The Hits (Interscope)***

Slim Shady says he's retiring, and perhaps it's just as well. After peaking on 2002's mass-media funhouse *The Eminem Show*, he stumbled badly on last year's vindictive, redundant *Encore* and has now all but disappeared save the TV spots hyping this cursory (and perhaps premature) collection. The "Stan" Grammy duet with Elton John adds little to the original, and of three new songs, only filthy "Fack" flashes the wicked wit of "The Real Slim Shady" or "Without Me."

★★★★

– Christopher Gray





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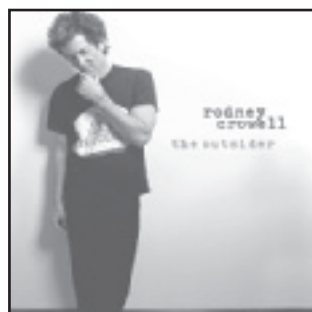


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3. ROBERT EARL KEEN
What I Really Mean
4. THE GREENCARDS
Weather and Water
5. JIMMY LAFAVE Blue Nightfall
6. PATTY GRIFFIN Impossible Dream
7. WILLIE NELSON & FRIENDS
Songs For Tsunami Relief
8. ELIZA GILKYSON Paradise Hotel
9. VARIOUS - KGSR Broadcasts V.12
10. JAMES McMURTRY Childish Things
11. BOB SCHNEIDER Lonelyland
12. WILLIE NELSON Countryman



13. WILLIE NELSON Songs
14. LOS SUPER SEVEN
Heard It on the X
15. **RODNEY CROWELL
The Outsider**
16. BOB SCHNEIDER
I'm good Now
17. CRUISERWEIGHT
Sweet Weaponry



18. RAY WYLIE HUBBARD Delirium Tremolos
19. RECKLESS KELLY Wicked Twisted Road
20. LOS LONELY BOYS Los Lonely Boys
21. WILLIE NELSON It Always Will Be
22. DELBERT McCLINTON
Cost of Living
23. DEL CASTILLO Vida
24. **GUY FORSYTH
Love Songs: For & Against**
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Jimmy LaFave • Soundtrack of Our Lives
Adem • The Bravery • The Dears



John Schooley & His One Man Band • Billy Joe Shaver
The Blind Boys of Alabama • The Kills • **Tony Joe White**
Saul Williams • El Gato • Hawthorne Heights • Doves
John Butler Trio • Todd Snider • The Pierces
And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead • Sarah Sharp
Glen Phillips • Blue Merle • David Olney • Wideawake
All Day I Drive • Benevento Russo Duo • Canvas
Robert Earl Keen • Marcia Ball • The Small Stars
Billy Joe Shaver • The Perceptionists • Supersuckers • Over It
Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez • Smog
Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion • Of Montreal
Aqualung • Nic Armstrong • Brian Keane

Architecture in Helsinki

Dressy Bessy • Susan Gibson
Stephen Bruton • The Greencards
Lucero • Shannon McNally
Eliza Gilkyson • Jimmie Dale Gilmore
Randy Rogers Band • World Leader
Pretend • Marc Burckhardt
Head of Femur • Guy Forsyth
Eric Johnson • The Hudsons
No Depression Book Signing



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The Gene Pool • Pamela Des Barres book signing
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Apollo Sunshine • John Cale • Laura Cantrell
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The Fiery Furnaces • Bloc Party • Roky Erickson
Tristan Prettyman • Eisley • M83 • Rachel Yamagata
Dierks Bentley • Doves • Kaiser Chiefs • Ruthie Foster
The Decemberists • Farm Aid Book Signing w/ Dave Alvin
Donna the Buffalo • Kermit Ruffins

SCIENCE ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- The latest technologies and sophisticated biomechanical gaugings are being used to design brassieres to liberate women from the discomfort of which most complain (and especially buxom women, since a D-cup bra normally carries breasts weighing from 15 to 23 pounds). Leading work (according to a November *Wall Street Journal* report) is being done in China by engineers for Top Form Inc. (suppliers to Victoria's Secret, Playtex, and Maidenform) and by biomechanist Deirdre McGhee at the University of Wollongong in Australia. A British professor, David Morris, teaches "bra studies" at De Montfort University in Leicester, and Hong Kong's Polytechnic University recently created a degree program in bra studies.
- Still More Breast News: The Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam, Netherlands, announced recently that retail studies student Wendy Rameckers had designed a wall with rows of silicon breasts in various shapes, primarily, she said, to help male shoppers decide what size bra to buy for their women. And prominent British futurist Ian Pearson of BT Laboratories told reporters in October that he could see the day when breast implants housed MP3 players (sending signals to a woman's headphones), to give the implants some actual functionality.
- Where the Best Surgeons Are: The increased expectations of fans have driven today's bullfighters to use riskier moves than their predecessors did, and competition has pressured them to return to work quickly after being gored. As a result, according to a November *Wall Street Journal* dispatch from Madrid, up to three dozen elite surgeons, highly skilled in complicated procedures, follow the bullfight circuit, on call to repair serious injuries that formerly would kill or maim a matador. In fact, most bullfighters today have already endured several critical gorings but remain eager to work.

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- The gigantic hit TV series *Frasier* grossed \$1.5 billion during its 11-year run, but according to the show's executives (responding to a recent lawsuit by the program's creators for a greater share of the "profits"), the traditional Hollywood accounting methods reveal that the show earned no profit over its lifetime but actually lost \$200 million.
- According to a 2004 study by Georgia State University researchers, based on public information, one "investor group" substantially outperforms not only the stock market as a whole but also financial houses' top stock-pickers. That investor group is U.S. senators, who somehow between 1993 and 1998 beat the market by an average of 12% annually

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



A documentary, *The Indigo Revolution*, debuts in January, with World Indigo Weekend scheduled for Jan. 27 to Jan. 29, touting "special," high-energy kids regarded by their doting parents as psychic and endowed with an identifying, indigo-colored aura. Indigos are said to act imperially and to be astutely rebellious toward authority (though cynics say they're just routinely self-centered brats, the product of excessive parental coddling). One Indigo parent told the Orange County (Calif.) Register in November that the numerous instances of her own child's prescience led her to offer her services as a facilitator to other Indigo parents (at up to \$400 for workshops). Indigos "have a temper," she acknowledged, but not an ordinary temper. "[It] seems geared toward philosophical and existential issues."

(whereas fund managers are regarded as "stars" if they beat the market by as little as 3%). The findings received heightened attention recently, following revelations that a prominent senator this year made a huge profit selling stock from his blind trust at just the right time.

AWESOME ANIMALS

- 1) Wasps (Research by a Department of Agriculture scientist and a University of Georgia professor, reported in December, showed that with five minutes' training, certain wasps can detect drugs, bombs, and dead bodies as well as dogs can). 2) A parrot (The wife of Frank Ficker of Freiberg, Germany, filing for divorce, said in November that she learned of her husband's infidelity when her parrot, Hugo,

imitating Frank's voice, continually cried out for some woman named "Uta.")

- Animals Being Animals: 1) The Harbor Commission of Newport Harbor, Calif., met in emergency session in September after news that 18 200- to 800-lb. sea lions had jumped onto a 37-foot sailboat and sunk it. (Elsewhere on the coast, sea lions eat boogie boards, vomit on docks, and bark cacophonously, and efforts to disperse them are ineffective because they are protected by a 1972 federal law.) 2) In September, an exceptionally rare American veery (a thrushlike songbird) landed in Britain's Shetland Islands and briefly excited the country's birdwatchers, but just as word was circulating, according to Scotland's *Daily Record*, a local cat ate it.

- Readers' Choice: In November in Leeuwarden, Netherlands, as the staff of the television company Endemol NV were working to set up four million dominoes in an attempt at a new Guinness Book record, a sparrow flew in through a window, landed on the formation, and toppled about 23,000 of them before built-in gaps stopped the collapse. (An exterminator with an air rifle tracked the bird down in the building and killed it, to the outrage of animal rights advocates.)

FETISHES ON PARADE

1) Large Rubber Exercise Balls (Christophe Bjerkness, 27, pleaded guilty in August in Duluth, Minn., to slashing almost 100 exercise balls at fitness centers because of what he told police was a sexual urge). 2) Dryer Lint (A separate collection of it was found among the 3,000 items of women's underwear stolen by Mr. Sung Koo Kam, 31, who was sentenced in November to more than four years in prison upon conviction in McMinnville, Ore.).

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Incomplete Thinking: Michael Drennon, 26, was charged with bank robbery in Bensalem, Pa., in October after accidentally dropping his pay stub at the scene, even though he had cleverly blotted out his name and address with a black indelible marker. (Bensalem's director of public safety said the stub was easy to read: "We just [held] it under a light.") 2) Louis Jasick, 34, and a friend, involved in a scavenger hunt, knocked on the back door of the police station in Fruitport Township, Mich., in November to ask if officers would please help with the next item on their list and pose for a photograph of a cop eating a doughnut. The officers obliged, but one of them recognized Jasick from a recent felony warrant and arrested him.

RECURRING THEMES

Child Support Follies: "News of the Weird" has reported several times about hard-luck men who, believing they are biological fathers, agree to child support, only to learn via a DNA test that they are not, but whom judges will not let rescind those agreements. An even more ironic case emerged from the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal in December. A man had originally agreed to support his new wife's daughter, but then he and his wife divorced, and the court ruled he must continue to support the girl even though the wife has now married the man who is the girl's biological father.

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnews@earthlink.net
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HURRY FINAL WEEK!



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KVUE NEWS

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Jason Hill, Melissa Gale and the KVUE Daybreak team hit the streets early to bring you all the news and traffic you need to start your day informed. Plus, meteorologist Ilona Torok has the Storm Team forecast to prepare you for the day ahead. So, start your day bright, early and informed with KVUE News Daybreak.

DAYBREAK 5-7AM

KVUE IS AUSTIN'S NEWS STATION

Watch the Chronicle's 'Best of Austin' on DAYBREAK FRIDAYS 5-7am



calendar

this week

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

c COMMUNITY p.62 + **a** RTS p.68 + **t** ILM p.72 + **m** USIC listings p.82

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM **ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC**) BY DIANA WELCH

Thursday 29

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS Help build giant-insect bicycle puppets and transform your own set of wheels into a crazy bug of your choice! Then, invade Austin's New Year's Parade with a gang of friendly insects! 3-7pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free. bikesacrossborders@riseup.net, www.bikesacrossborders.org.

BOARD GAME NIGHT AT VENTANA DEL SOUL 6pm. *Ventana del Soul*, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. Free.

COMMUNITY DINNER Sup with the folks of the *Rhizome Collective*. Donations of pots, pans, food containers, spices, and the like are welcome. *Volunteer prep*, 4-6pm; *community dinner*, 6-7pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT The holidays are the traditional time to give to those less fortunate than yourself. The holidays are also an especially lonely time to be locked up, away from your home and your family. And, wouldn't you know! IBP receives more thank-you letters from inmates around the holidays than any other time of the year. Help these good people raise funds to answer the more than 600 requests they receive every month from prisoners in Texas. If you can donate \$2, \$20, or \$200, it will make all the difference to one, 10, or 100 prisoners. In addition to monetary donations, IBP has a great need for packaging materials (e.g. packaging tape and large envelopes), volunteers, and books. Donations: *12th St. Books*, 827 W. 12th. Volunteer: 6-10pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 385-3695.

THE STOREHOUSE Hungry? Broke? Come and eat. 10am-2pm. *The Storehouse*, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free. info@the-storehouse.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
This Land Is Your Land @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm
Up in Smoke @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm

Who needs China, when we have our own Critical Mass of bikes?

(SEE FRIDAY, 12/30)

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Attic Ted Room 710
Rachel Goldstar, Azalia Snail Beerland
Old 97's La Zona Rosa
The Diamond Smugglers Continental Club

Friday 30

CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH CLASSES 1pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.

CRITICAL MASS Take back the streets! (See Sports) 5pm. *The UT West Mall where it meets Guadalupe (between 22nd and 23rd streets)*. www.criticalmassrides.info/austin.html.

DEAF PROFESSIONAL HAPPY HOUR BIRTHDAY BASH 6pm-2am. *Fox & Hound*, 401 Guadalupe, 651-9343. \$5 (free, with canned-food donation). host@dphh-austin.com, www.dphh-austin.com.

NAVIGATING BREAST CANCER TOGETHER 6-8:30pm. *St. David's Health Resource Center*, 3000 N. I-35, 472-1738 x100.

COMEDY (See Arts Listings)
Andre Meadows Velveeta Room
George Carlin Paramount Theatre

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Deep Blue @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm
Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm

Saturday 31

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET 9am-1pm. *Republic Square Park, Fourth & Guadalupe*, 236-0074. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

BOOK BONANZA Free books! Piles and piles! 10am. *Faulk Central Library*, 800 Guadalupe; *Friends Monster Book Store*, 1800 S. Fifth, 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library/news/nr20030625.htm.

CAPOEIRA WITH KABULA 2-4pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.

FOOD NOT BOMBS feeds people delicious, healthy, and free food. Volunteers are always needed for prep. Cooking: 11am-2pm. *House of Commons*, 2610 Rio Grande; serving: 3-5pm. *Wooldridge Square Park, Guadalupe between Ninth & 10th*. fnbaustin@gooutside.net.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! With the first annual First Night Austin, our burg is joining towns across the

nation in promoting a New Year's celebration that offers entertainment other than the usual party-hat-wearing, noisemaker-blowing, champagne-chugging, stranger-smooching kind. (See Arts, p.36) 2pm-midnight. *Downtown, spanning from Congress Avenue at Ninth Street to Town Lake, from Second Street to City Hall and from the First Street Bridge to Auditorium Shores*. www.firstnightaustin.org.

SOUTH MANCHACA ART MARKET 9am-2pm. 11800 Manchaca Rd. www.soaustin.com.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET 7am-1pm. *Sunset Valley Farmers Market, Tony Burger Center*, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free.

WEST SIXTH STREET ARTISTS' MARKET 10am-6pm. 709 W. Sixth, 698-8099. www.6thstreetmarket.com.

YELLER DAWG DEMOCRATS BRUNCH & DISCUSSION 11am. *Tres Amigos*, 1801 S. Capital of TX Hwy., 327-1776. bmcafee@austin.rr.com.

THE STOREHOUSE 10am-2pm. *The Storehouse*, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free. info@the-storehouse.org. (See Thursday 12/29)

the young ones

BORDERS North Children's story times are always fun. *Thursdays*, 10:30am; *Saturdays*, 11am. *Borders*, 10225 Research, 795-9553.
South: Children's story times are always tons of fun here, too. *Fridays and Saturdays*, 11am. *Borders*, 4477 S. Lamar, 891-8974.

HANCOCK RECREATION CENTER offers child care for children ages 3-5. All instructors are CPR/First Aid certified. Available *Mon.-Fri.* *Hancock Recreation Center*, 811 E. 41st, 453-7765.

R.O.C.K. CHILDREN'S CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM is gearing up for the new year. Register your child (aged 7-17) for **Capoeira** classes with Da'mon on *Thursdays*, 6-7pm; for the younger set (aged 3-15), there are **River City Twirl & Dance** classes on *Saturdays*, 10:15am-noon. *Reflections of Christ's Kingdom*, 5800 E. MLK, 926-9600. Call for tuition information.

SHOTS FOR TOTS Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services offer free immunizations at two locations. **Far South Clinic:** *Mondays*, 10am-1:30pm & 3-6:45pm; *Tuesdays & Thursdays*, 8-11:30am & 1-4:45pm; *Wednesdays & Fridays (walk-in clinic)*, 8-11:30am; *first Saturday of the month (walk-in clinic)*, 9am-1pm. *Far South Clinic*, 405 W. Stassney. **St. John Clinic:** *Mondays*

& *Thursdays*, 8-11:30am & 1-4:45pm; *Tuesdays*, 10am-1:30pm & 3-6:45pm; *Wednesdays & Fridays (walk-in clinic)*, 8-11:30am; *third Saturday of the month*, 9am-1pm. *St. John Clinic*, 7500 Blessing. 972-5520. Free.

NATURAL EAR MUSIC SCHOOL is looking for kids ages 8-13 to join rock & roll bands forming in January. In addition to kid bands, they also offer lessons and rock & roll camps during the winter and summer. 447-5910. \$575, semester. april@naturalearmusic.com, www.naturalearmusic.com.

GUITAR CLASSES FOR GIRLS taught by a degreed female instructor. Ages 6 and older. 809-7799. *Group classes starting at \$10 (private classes available)*. emilcmarks@hotmail.com.

GROUNDWATER ESSAY CONTEST FOR \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE Hey, high school seniors. Write an essay about groundwater issues (you know, like pollution prevention, water conservation, or hydrogeology) and yours might be one of the two winning essays selected by an independent evaluation panel. (If you've completed the GED in the past 6 months, you can give it go, too.) See the Web site for more information. *Essays and applications must be*

received by March 1, 2006. 282-8441. www.bseacd.org/scholarship_program.htm.

KWANZAA CELEBRATIONS AT AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY OK. Kwanzaa isn't a Christmas substitute (and, as it happens, neither is Hannukah). Founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration of family, community responsibility, commerce (You too, Kwanzaa? Sigh.), and self-improvement. Celebrate and learn African traditions with Elizabeth Kahura, an educator from the motherland. *Thu., Dec. 29, 3pm. University Hills Branch*, 4721 Loyola Ln., 929-0551.

CONNECTING CHILDREN TO BOOKS features the wonderful Miss Tiffany with a story each Friday. *Fridays*, 10am. *Connections Resource Center*, 825 E. 53rd Ste. E-101, 478-5725 x214. www.connectionscenter.org.

YOUTH DANCE SERIES teaches teens and young adults how to boogie in a variety of styles, including social, Latin, and ballroom in a no-pressure atmosphere. *Wednesdays & Saturdays*. *Middle School Class: 4pm*; *High School Class: 5pm. Wednesdays: 8611 Green Valley Dr.; Saturdays: Hills Fitness Center*, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. www.dancein.org.



Sunday 01

GUIDED HIKES Cover about 4 miles of rugged terrain in Austin's only state natural area. 9-11am. Bright Leaf State Natural Area, 4400 Crestway, 459-7269.

MEDITATION & DISCUSSION GROUP: DEVELOPING THE GOOD HEART This ongoing series is based upon the teachings of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition of Lama Tsong Khapa. Discussions and meditations will be facilitated by Bonnie Baptist, a lay-student of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and others. Sundays, 2-4pm. Heart Song, 2700 W. Anderson Ln., Ste. 320. Donations accepted. www.austinfpm.com.

WEST SIXTH STREET ARTISTS' MARKET 10am-6pm. 709 W. Sixth, 698-8099. www.6thstreetmarket.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm
Head @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm

Monday 02

AUSTIN AGAINST WAR MEETING 7pm. 2107 San Antonio, 323-9778. aaw@austinagainstwar.org, www.austinagainstwar.org.

AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION MEETING 7pm. LCRA Board Room, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. www.austincycling.org.

AUSTIN TRAVEL CIRCLE MEETING 7pm. Austin International Youth Hostel, 2200 Lakeshore, 444-2294. Free. www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austintravelcircle.

CAPITOL CITY HIGHLANDERS PIPE BAND offer free lessons at their practices each week. 5:30-6:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 346-3123 or 567-1282. Free.

CENTRAL AUSTIN TOASTMASTERS MEETING 6-7pm. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2200 Justin. www.tmd55.org/centralaustin.

DEVELOP YOUR PSYCHIC ABILITIES RSVP ... with your mind! 7-9pm. Human Potential Center,

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 13 issue is Monday, Jan. 2.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Kate X Messer or Kate Getty (The Gay Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com.
 Diana Welch (everything else): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com.



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 - The Austin Chronicle Readers Poll



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Living the Legacy 2006 MLK Celebration

Citywide March & Rally

Monday, January 16, 2006
 Begins at University of Texas,
 21st and Speedway at 9:00 AM
 (Capitol program begins at 10:00 AM)

MLK Cultural Festival

(11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at
 Huston-Tillotson Univ., 8th & Concho)
 Outdoor concert featuring
 Gary Clark Jr., DeDe Priest,
 Boombox and Grupo Fantasma

www.mlkcelebration.com

13th Annual Keynote Address

Sunday, January 22, 2006, 6:30 PM
 Keynote Address by

Dr. Marian Wright Edelman,
 Founder and President of The Children's Defense Fund
Special Performance by Sounds of Blackness

Hyatt Regency Hotel
208 Barton Springs Road

\$10, \$15, \$25
 tickets at www.mlkcelebration.com
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the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

QUEERY HOLIDAYS! “The Gay Place” had a lovely Chrismukkah, thank you very much! We spent it with the good (warm, welcoming, wonderful) folks at **St. James Episcopal**, playing **Santa** with a few loved ones, and at the **Charlie’s** feast at noon. OMG: **Shonna** and **Miss Edie** and all the gang did it up right. What an incredible spread! We think we may have stumbled on an annual tradition. New Year’s? Hmmm, well, we’ll prolly do a li’l **First Night** and some party flitting... How about you? Whatever you do, please be safe and have a super queer new year, everybody! – *The Kates*

Q FOR FELLAS You need only one letter to find Austin’s hot new happenin’ for guys 18-29: Q. Social support, coming-out support, health education, parties, discussion groups, and a variety of other events, all to give all the young dudes the chance to meet new guys and form friendships. Call or e-mail right now for details. 420-8557. mp_austin@sbcglobal.net.

ALLGO WRITING & PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS There’s still time to sign up for ALLGO’s January 2006 workshop series featuring **D’Lo** from L.A. Actors, writers, get on it! And even beginners: The workshops

are intended for you, too. **ALLGO’s Tillery Street Theater**, 701 Tillery, 472-2001 x106. sharon@sharonbridgforth.com.

DESTINATION: 2006 Check out Austin’s new San Jacinto hot spot getting all jingly for the holidays! Their three nights, three events should have you hitting the holiday “spirits” next weekend and donning all that gay shizzzz: the **Boarding Party** hosted by DJ Chris Allen, **Supersonic** New Year’s, and **Touchdown** Retro Tea Dance early New Year’s Day. *Fri-Sat., Dec. 30-31, and Sun., Jan. 1, 2006, respectively. The Cockpit, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010. www.cockpitaustin.com.*

FOODIES Celebrate the new year with **Women Who Love Women Who Love Food** at a bangin’ private houseparty! E-mail Kitty to get on the list. Sat., Dec. 31. beatsagogo@aol.com, foodiesaustin@ultraultra.net, www.ultraultra.net.

FABRIC GETS CLASSY Bubbly flowing, boys and girlsies upscaled in their “Auld Lang Syne” best, and dancing until that damn ball drops ... and well after. Finally, a New Year’s that won’t suck. Pinch us. We might just be dreaming. Sat., Dec. 31, 9pm. *Fabric, 101 W. Fifth, 322-9333.*

A NEW YEAR’S MASQUERADE Where ringing in the New Year means gloriously peeking from behind a mask, diggin’ on belly dancing, oohing and ahing at a troupe of fire dancing crazy kids, getting your gender bent with the **Kings ’N Things**, and the world’s only walking, talking buffet, **HoCake**. Eating is believing, folks. Do it up right for dinner with a family style meal (\$40) or a lower-profile Middle Eastern buffet (\$30). Hang out until the after-show dance party in their new space next door, with tunes by **DJ SeeNSay** and the **T Spot**. Damn. Now that’s a Happy New Year. Sat., Dec. 31, 7pm-3am. *Ararat, 111 E. North Loop, 419-1692.*

GET YOUR KICKS IN 2006 at Austin’s oldest and most affable gay bar. Champagne toast (we’re rethinking our heels) and cash balloon drops (running shoes, definitely). Sat., Dec. 31. *Charlie’s, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.*

STUDIO 54 PARTY This one’s not happening in the old **CBS Radio Playhouse & Television Studio** in NYC, pard. Nope. It’s happening right here in good ol’ River City, where for one night, you can have visions of **Steve Rubell** and his dusty li’l white mustache dancing in yo head! Ooh Ooh! Sat., Dec. 31. *Rain, 217-B W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.*

HUG, CAT SCIENTIST, & PONG The lineup of the year. How queer is that? Sat., Dec. 31, 10pm. *Room 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997.*

For more gay stuff, see *Calendar online:* austinchronicle.com.
Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$100, four-week course.

HEALING CLINIC: HEALINGS WITH CLAIRVOYANT PROGRAM 6:45-7:30pm. Call for exact location, 560-5193. intuitiveguide@yahoo.com, www.intuitivestudiesaustin.com.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS MEETING Call for location. 327-2802. Free. www.oa.org.

THE AUSTIN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION Present your ideas, issues, and concerns during citizens’ communications. 5:30pm. *One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., 974-3251.*

WEEKLY CHESS TOURNAMENT This five-round Swiss system tournament has been ruling the food court for 10 years now. 7pm. *Dobie Center, 2021 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, Plaza), 505-1000. \$1 to play.*

YEAR OF BODHISATTVA RENAISSANCE AWAKENING: A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR LIBERATING ENLIGHTENMENT Awakeners reshape their lives by tapping hidden powers of their bodies and minds. So, uh, what do you do? 7-8:30pm. *Shambhala Meditation Center, 1702 S. Fifth, 771-3184. \$10. kayoneil@earthlink.net.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)

The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Beefheart @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm

Tuesday 03

AUSTIN/CAPITAL CITY BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN’S LUNCHEON 11:30am. *Tien Hong, 8301 Burnet Rd., 459-6922. Free. austinbpw@yahoo.com.*

AUSTIN/CAPITAL CITY BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN’S MONTHLY NETWORKING LUNCHEON 11:30am-1pm. *Tien Hong, 8301 Burnet Rd., 459-6922. Free (lunch not included). austinbpw@yahoo.com.*

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP 6-10pm. *Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free. bikesacrossborders@riseup.net.*

DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM MEDITATION MEETING 7pm. *Texas Union, UT Campus, 24th & Guadalupe. www.diamondway.org/austin.*

GUIDED-IMAGERY MEDITATION 7-8pm. *Wellness by Design, 4701 Westgate Ste. C-301. Donations accepted. www.wellnessbydesign.us.*

HOUSE THE HOMELESS MEETING 3-4pm. *500 E. Seventh. www.universallivingwage.org.*

HOW TO ACHIEVE A HEALTHY MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT IN 2006 6:30-8:30pm. *Regenesi Integrative Health Centers, 1700 S. Lamar #322, 326-3737. Free. www.regenesiisinc.com.*

IGNITE YOUR INVENTIVENESS 7-9pm. *Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$95, supplies included.*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Escape to a cabin in the woods this weekend. Nothing seems to recharge the batteries like relaxing in a rocking chair on the front porch of a cottage surrounded by sounds of nature. The following accommodations are more than rustic hunting cabins, but they’re not luxurious resorts. Of course, luxury has many definitions, and one of these might fit your idea of living the good life.

River Haven Cabins outside of Leakey on the Frio River is a year-round vacation destination. During the summer, the cool river is a short walk from your back door, and the fireplaces come in handy during the winter. Most of the cabins are duplexes, but there is plenty of room to spread out. You can either get a room with a kitchenette or drive into town to take advantage of one of the restaurants. Garner and Lost Maples state parks are short drives from the cabins. Rates run about \$145 during the summer, \$98 during the fall and winter, and \$50 to \$75 per night in January and February. For information, call 830/232-5400 or go to www.riverhavencabins.com.

There are a couple dozen businesses along the Frio River that offer a wide range of accommodations. For a complete list, go to www.hill-country-visitor.com.

The Paluxy River Bed Cabins outside of Glen Rose is a great place to spend a special event. The owners will make arrangements for you like delivering flowers or a massage therapist to your room. The four cabins are spread out on the property to allow maximum privacy. All of the rooms have balconies, hot tubs, kitchenettes, and access to the river. Children under 21 years old and pets are best left at home. The nightly rate of \$125 includes a small breakfast left in your refrigerator. For information, call 800/235-2004 or go to www.paluxyriverbedcabins.com.

Fox Meadows Guest Homes and Nature Conservatory between Athens and Palestine makes use of a dog-trot cabin that the owners lived in while constructing their retirement home down the hill. Each of the two apartments is well equipped with a kitchenette, fireplace, television with VCR, and rocking chairs on the front porch. Private hiking trails meander around the 50 acres that are being returned to their natural state. Rates run from \$85 to \$110. For information, call 903/549-3400 or go to www.foxmeadows.ws.

Cedar Canyon Lodge and Cabins outside of Graham is on a working cattle ranch backing up to Possum Kingdom



Lake. The rooms have a small kitchen and a grill on the deck. You’re a good ways from any store, so stock up on the supplies you’ll need and lounge in the hot tub behind the cabin or hike the miles of trails. If you have to have access to the outside world, the lodge has a business center with phone and Internet connections. A full breakfast is included on weekends, and there is no telling when a jam session around the campfire will happen. Rates range from \$119 to \$149. For more information, call 940/549-8999 or go to www.cedarcanyonlodge.com.

Texas state parks offer one of the best deals in cabin rentals to be found in the state. Bastrop State Park has 12 cabins, all with fireplaces, bed and bath linens, and kitchenettes for \$65 to \$150 per night. Caddo Lake State Park has nine cabins with linens and towels, air conditioning, and heat, and some have gas log fireplaces for \$70 to \$90 per night. Cooper Lake State Park has 15 small cabins with air and heat and small kitchens for \$30 to \$36 per night. Daingerfield State Park has three cabins, one with a fireplace, for \$75 to \$85 per night. Garner State Park has 17 cabins, most with fireplaces, for \$60 to \$80 per night. Lake Brownwood State Park has 16 cabins with fireplaces for \$55 to \$65 per night. Martin Creek Lake State Park has two cabins with air conditioning, heat, and kitchens for \$70 per night. Palo Duro Canyon State Park has two cabins overlooking the canyon with refrigerators and microwaves for \$100 to \$115 per night. Possum Kingdom State Park has six cabins, five with fireplaces, for \$75 to \$135 per night. For reservations or details, call 389-8900 or go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us. 759th in a series. **Day Trips, Vol. 2**, a book of Day Trips 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

TESTIGOS DE LA HISTORIA features the works of modern and contemporary Mexican documentary photographers. *Through Feb. 12. Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography, Alkek Library, Texas State University, San Marcos, 512/245-2313. www.wg.tx.state.edu.*

CAMEL TREKS re-create the Sahara and the Bedouin way of life in the West Texas desert on a camel-assisted walking tour of a sandy state park. Reservations required, call for times and fees. *Monahans Sandhills State Park, Monahans, 432/943-2092. www.texascamelcorps.*

CHRISTMAS TOY SHOW brings out the vintage cars, old toys, and dolls from the days before video games. *Through Jan. 1, noon-5pm. Shooting Star Museum, Castroville, 830/931-3837.*

LAKE MEREDITH TURNS 40 Explore the Panhandle lake’s history from pre-historic artifacts from the Alibates Ruin to water use and natural gas wells. Also see the works of Jim Ward, a painter and sculptor who was once the illustrator for *American Quarter Horse Journal*. *Through Feb. 19. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, 806/651-2244. www.panhandleplains.org.*

TRACKS OF THE IRON HORSE pulls together pieces of railroad history from the train’s inception to modern day locomotives and routes. *Through Jan. 28. George Bush Presidential Library, College Station, 979/691-4000. bushlibrary.tamu.edu.*

TEXAS TALL TALE exhibits folk art and curiosities from the Lone Star State. *Through Feb. 18. Webb Gallery, 209 W. Franklin, Waxahachie, 972/938-8085. www.webbgallery.com.*

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT invites everyone to participate in the

world’s largest and oldest citizen science project. Registration required. *Through Jan. 5. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and various locations, 979/480-0999. www.audubon.org/bird/cbc.*

IN THE AMERICAN WEST returns for its anniversary showing 20 years after Richard Avedon unveiled the landmark photographic exhibit. *Through Jan. 8. Amon Carter Museum, 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, 817/332-8451. www.cartermuseum.org.*

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS fills the glass pyramid greenhouses with thousands of twinkling lights, plus ice skating and holiday music. *Through Jan. 7, including Christmas and Christmas Day, 6-10pm. Moody Gardens, Galveston, 800/582-4673. www.moodygardens.org.*

NEW YEAR’S EVE GALA begins with appetizers and beverages followed by a buffet dinner with music by the Jack Rowe Jones Trio, dancing, party favors, and a Las Vegas-style blackjack table. At midnight there will be champagne, sparklers, and ringing bells topped off with sweet breads and coffee. Sat., Dec. 31, 7:30pm. *Festival Hill, Round Top, 979/249-3129. www.festivalhill.org.*

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY with Mike Blakely & the Whiskey Traders includes party favors, midnight brunch, and champagne toast at the legendary dance hall. Look for special package deals with hotels in the area. Sat., Dec. 31, 9pm. *Luckenbach, 888/311-8990. www.luckenbachtxes.com.*

BOOKSIGNING PARTY with Allan C. Kimball of the first two stories in his trilogy set in the Big Bend. *Sun., Jan. 1, Terlingua Trading Company, Terlingua. www.rainbowswaitforrain.com.*

POLAR BEAR CLUB dives into the swimming pool for a bracing or refreshing swim depending on the weather. Preregistration required to participate; watching is free. *Sun., Jan. 1, 11am-1pm. Kyle Pool, 1300 W. Center St., Kyle, 512/268-5341. www.cityofkyle.com.*

MAIN STREET ARTISAN STROLL fills the sidewalks in the downtown business district with artists, musicians, and performers for this monthly event. *Thu., Jan. 5, 5-9pm. Round Rock, 512/341-8788. www.mainstreetstroll.com.*

Introducing
America's newest roll models.



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Rollergirls
From the producers of *Laguna Beach*

A new spin on drama



Mondays at 9pm

MESSAGE: A FIVE-SESSION INTRODUCTION Should you decide to enroll in the professional training after taking this community class, \$100 of your tuition will be applied to your first semester. 7-9:30pm. *The Lauterstein-Conway Massage School and Clinic*, 374-9908, 374-9222 x13. \$130 (includes \$50 space-saving deposit).

PAST LIVES, DREAMS AND SOUL TRAVEL 7-8:30pm. *Austin Eckankar Center*, 223 W. Anderson Ste. B-206, 453-0331. www.eckankar-texas.org.

SIERRA CLUB MEETING 6:15-7pm. *LCRA Board Room*, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS MONTHLY MEETING 7:30pm. *Magnolia Cafe South*, 1920 S. Congress, 383-1754. Free. www.stonewallaustin.org.

TRICHOTILLOMANIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETING for chronic hair-pullers. 7pm. *Austin Java Co.*. Free. austintrich@yahoo.com.

THEATRE (See Arts Listings)
The Dionysium *Alamo South Lamar*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Fitzcarraldo @ *Alamo Drafthouse Downtown*, 9:45pm

Wednesday 04

AUSTIN INDYMEDIA COLLECTIVE MEETING Open to everybody, so don't be shy. Austin Indymedia wants to teach you how to make your voice heard. 5-6:30pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free. www.austin.indymedia.org.

AUSTIN NORML MEETING 9pm. *Opal Divine's Freehouse*, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. info.austinnorml.com, www.austinnorml.com.

AUSTIN SINGING INSTITUTE VOCAL LIBERATION CLASS RSVP 7-10pm. *Music Lab*, 1306 W. Oltorf,

554-8771. \$50. guy@guymonroe.com, www.austinsinginginstitute.net.

AUSTIN WOMEN IN BLACK encourage all those opposed to war to join them in their weekly vigil. Noon-1pm. *Texas State Capital Building*. www.austinwomeninblack.org.

DEMOCRACY FOR TEXAS MEETUP 7pm. *Mother Egan's Irish Pub*, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. Free.

GUIDED MEDITATION 6:30pm. *Howson Library*, 2500 Exposition, 680-6140. www.artoflivingaustin.org.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD HAPPY HOUR 5:30-7pm. *Casino el Camino*, 517 E. Sixth, 469-9330. www.iww.org.

INTERMEDIATE GERMAN CLASS 6:30-8pm. *German-Texan Heritage Society*, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927. \$60, 12 weeks (\$50, members).

LINKING LANGUAGES SPANISH CLUB Open to everyone. 7pm. *Ventana del Soul*, 1834 E. Oltorf, 263-1465. Free.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB: FORGET THE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ... JUST LOOK IN YOUR BLIND SPOTS with Steven List. 7-8:30am. *UT Club*, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. \$15. www.mbcastin.org.

NO KIDDING! GAME NIGHT 7-9pm. *Central Market North*, 4001 N. Lamar, 294-7930. Free. www.austinnokidding.com.

TRADITIONAL MAYAN CLAENDAR STUDY with Carlos Cedillo. 6pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase. www.cosmicjaguar.com, www.rutamaya.net.

COMEDY (See Arts Listings)
National Champions of Comedy: The Rose Bowl *The Hideout Theater*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
North Hills Gallery

Thursday 05

EMANCIPET FREE THURSDAYS Check their Web site to see when this mobile spay/neuter clinic will be in your neighborhood! 8am, check-in begins (first come, first served). *Emancipet*, 601 E. Airport, 587-SPAY. Free.

FIRST THURSDAY Music, food, and shopping. (See Club Listings) *From the river, south on South Congress*. Free.

GATEWAY TO RECOVERY: ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADDICTION AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT Starting off simple: What is addiction? 7-9pm. *Covenant Presbyterian Church*, 3003 Northland, 454-5231. Free.

LIBERTY DOLLAR OF AUSTIN MEETING 6pm. *Opal Divine's Freehouse*, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. Free.

SECULAR ORGANIZATIONS FOR SOBRIETY/SAVE OURSELVES MEETING 7:30pm. *Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church*, 3315 El Salido Pkwy., Cedar Park, 219-9008. sos_austin@yahoo.com.

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP 6-10pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free. bikesacrossborders@riseup.net.

BOARD GAME NIGHT AT VENTANA DEL SOUL 6pm. *Ventana del Soul*, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. Free.

COMMUNITY DINNER Volunteer prep, 4-6pm; community dinner, 6-7pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free. (See Thursday 12/29)

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT 6-10pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 385-3695. (See Thursday 12/29)

THE STOREHOUSE 10am-2pm. *The Storehouse*, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free. info@the-storehouse.org. (See Thursday 12/29)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Super Mecha Kucha Happy Fun Monkey Bash (Vol. 4) @ *Alamo Drafthouse Downtown*, 9:45pm

Sports BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs.: Wisconsin-Platteville: *Sat., Dec. 3, 3pm*. Vs. LeTourneau University: *Thu., Jan. 5, 7:30pm*. athletics.concordia.edu/athletics.htm.

THE AUSTIN LONESTARS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB is Austin's inclusive men's rugby team, welcoming new players regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, athletic experience, or rugby experience. Want to learn rugby, get fit, and have lots of fun in the process? Stop by practice and see what you think. *Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45pm*. Burnet Middle School, 3000 S. I-35, 841-8289. www.lonestarsrugby.org.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS The boys destroyed Texas State last Thursday 85-49 and look to do the same to visiting Prairie View A&M. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Prairie View A&M: *Fri., Dec. 30, 7pm*. Frank Erwin Center. www.texassports.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. St. Xavier University: *Fri., Dec. 30, 8pm*. www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.

THE AUSTIN VALKYRIES WOMEN'S RUGBY CLUB It's never too late to join. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9pm at Burnet Middle School and all interested women are invited. Rugby is a fun, intense, full-tackle sport. Learn how to play with the Valkyries! *Burnet Middle School, 3000 S. I-35, 841-8289*. www.austinvalkyries.com.

AUSTIN TOROS The Toros fell to the unfortunately named Arkansas RimRockers last Friday 108-101, with Marcus Fizer and Ramel Curry both scoring 20 for Austin. Vs. *Tulsa: Fri., Dec. 30, 7:30pm*. Austin Convention Center, 236-8333. \$8-27. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

RECREATION & FITNESS

HOOPZONE HoopZone is a nonprofit organization committed to providing the best basketball training experience for Austin's youth. Go by and check out their facility, which consists of 23,000 square feet of gym space, 11 basketball hoops, a strength and conditioning center, two regulation-sized courts, and much more. Improve your fundamental skills and have fun learning the game. *HoopZone*, 826 Rutland, 837-5553. www.hoopzone.net.

AUSTIN SIERRA CLUB All general meetings are open to members and nonmembers alike. *Tue., Jan. 3, 7pm*. *LCRA Hancock Building (in the board room)*, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

TEAM TEXAS ADULT SWIM TEAM Swimming training for adults for fitness or preparation for swimming competition, open water swims, or triathlons. *Mon., Wed., Fri., 7:30am, 8:30am; Mon., Wed., and Thu., noon*. Dell Jewish Community Association of Austin, 327-1280. www.swimttex.com.

CHAPARRAL ICE Austin's premier rink folks are offering free first lessons every Saturday for those ages 6 and older. Also, check out their men's, women's, and youth hockey leagues. *Sat., Dec. 31, 11:30am*. *Chaparral Ice*, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500; *Sat., Dec. 31, 1pm*. Northcross Mall, 451-5102. Free. **Free Hockey Try-**

It Class The sport of hockey has been growing steadily in Texas for years now and here's your chance to get in on the fun with this free 30-minute class. *Sun., Jan. 1, 4pm*. Northcross Mall, 451-5102. Free. www.chaparralice.com.

AUSTIN ROCK GYM has a free ladies' night climbing clinic. *Mon., Jan 2, 7:30pm*. Both locations. *Austin Rock Gym*, 4401 Freidrich, 416-9299. Free. www.austinrockgym.com.

ACC SPRING GOLF CLASSES This 18-hour class covers set-up fundamentals (grip and stance) for the short game and full swing. No experience necessary in this self-paced class. Evening and Saturday classes forming for Jan./Feb. 223-7542. www3.austincce.due/schedule/wcell/cepfr.htm.

THUNDER HILL RACEWAY There are races every Saturday night at this paved oval racetrack in South Austin. *Saturdays, 7pm*. 24801 I-35, Kyle, 512/262-1352. www.thunderhillraceway.com.

WEEKLY CHESS TOURNAMENT All are welcome at this weekly tournament. Cash prizes, yo. *Mondays, 7pm, Dobie Mall, second floor food court*. \$1 entry fee.

WILD GOOSE QI GONG Wild Goose Qi Gong combines physical and mental techniques to increase and circulate one's "Qi" (internal energy) by interpreting the movements of geese. *Saturdays, noon-12:30pm*. *Human Potential Center*, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$5.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

REI LECTURES & CLINICS Ride Like a Girl The Austin Ridge Riders and Race Like a Girl mountain bike team are hosting weekly women's mountain bike rides, plus weekend rides at local mountain bike trails/parks. This is an opportunity to ride with other women, learn new trails, new skills, build riders' abilities, and much more. *For more info and directions see* www.austinridgeriders.com.

THE AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION has plenty of bicycling activities to offer this bike-loving city. Check their Web site for details. www.austincycling.org/rides.html.

THE CRITICAL MILE YOUTH ALL-COMERS TRACK MEET Kids will compete and have some fun in this all-comers meet. *Sat., Dec. 31, 10:30am*. *Fulmore Middle School*, 484-9777. www.thecriticalmile.com/trackmeet.htm.

WILD BASIN WILDERNESS has a plethora of available walks, hikes, and more. www.wildbasin.org.

AUSTIN CRITICAL MASS is a monthly bicycle ride to celebrate cycling and to take back the streets. It began in San Francisco in 1992 and quickly spread to cities all over the world. Critical Mass first appeared in Austin in October 1993. Every last Friday of the month. *Fri., Dec. 30, 5pm*. *The UT West Mall where it meets Guadalupe (between 22nd & 23rd streets)*. www.criticalmassrides.info/austin.html.

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“Soccer Watch” is on holiday hiatus this week, along with most all of world soccer. Happy holidays, and see you next week.



Ongoing Events

MOTHERS' MILK BANK NEEDS YOUR HELP Calling all dairy queens! The Mothers' Milk Bank accepts donations of surplus milk from healthy breast-feeding women, pasteurizes the milk, and dispenses it by prescription to premature and sick babies, primarily those in the hospital. 494-0800. april@mmbaustin.org, www.mmbaustin.org.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES is looking for volunteers to assist in their nonprofit fair-trade store that provides fair incomes to artisans in developing countries by marketing their handcrafted items and telling their stories. *Ten Thousand Villages*, 1317 S. Congress, 440-0440. www.villagesofaustin.org.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS needs volunteers during school hours to be tutors and mentors. Volunteers can choose the age group and school location they prefer. They are also in need of monetary donations at this time. Call or check the Web site for more info. 462-1771. www.clsaustin.org.

WONDERS & WORRIES offers developmentally appropriate support groups and individual counseling for children and youths who have a parent with cancer or other serious illness. Support groups and counseling are also available for children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer, cystic fibrosis, juvenile arthritis, and other chronic illnesses. All services are free of charge and are offered in Spanish and English. *Wonders & Worries*, 923-C Westbank Dr., 329-5757. *Wonders & Worries*, 923-C Westbank, 329-5757. Free. www.wondersandworries.org.

FAMILY ELDERCARE is in need of volunteers to work as bill payers and guardian advocates in order to maintain dignity, independence, and quality of life for the disabled and the elderly. *Family Eldercare*, 2210 Hancock Dr, 483-3582. funger@familyeldercare.org.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS AT RUTA MAYA CAFE offers informal instructional classes such as yoga, children's yoga, French, Latin, medical terminology, spiritual advancement, and more! Check the Web site for schedule. *Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9am; Wednesdays & Fridays, 8am; Saturdays, 9 & 10am*. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.

COMPASSION OVER KILLING Vegetarians want meat-eaters to stop eating meat so badly that they'll give 'em presents just to *think* about it. Head to this Web site for your free vegetarian starter guide. Free. www.tryveg.com.

FREE CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING *Mondays & Tuesdays, 8am-7pm; Wednesdays & Fridays, 8am-noon*. The CARE Program, 1631-E E. Second, 804-3650. Free.

FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES is recruiting up to 350 volunteers to provide free income tax preparation for low-income, working families in Central Texas during the 2006 tax season. Check the Web site for training information. 447-2026 x35. www.foundcom.org, www.communitytaxcenters.org.

CONTINUING RELIEF EFFORTS FOR GULF COAST EVACUEES For updated survivor information, resources, and community-action calls, see our Web site. austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/hurricane2.php.

SEXUAL ASSAULT & ABUSE SERVICES Hays-Cladwell Women's Center is starting free and confidential daytime and evening support groups for women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse. Ask For Laura Dupont or Kristen Pearson. 512/396-3404. www.hcwc.org.

HUMAN POTENTIAL CENTER This South Austin nonprofit has a myriad of classes and workshops – from yoga and Reiki to art classes and dream interpretation – just waiting to maximize your potential. Check out the Web site for more info. *Human Potential Center*, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

ADOPT A BIG DOG from the Austin Humane Society and you'll get free obedience training from Triple Crown Dog Academy. Plus, you'll be getting your new best friend for only \$40, which is a good bit less than the usual \$150 adoption fee. *Through Dec. 31*. *Humane Society* – SPCA Austin, 124 W. Anderson, 837-0879. www.austinhumanesociety.org.

MEDICINAL YOGA Yoga for diabetes, *Thursdays, 11am-12:30pm*; for back pain, *Fridays, 2:30-4pm*; for weight loss and internal peace, *Saturdays 4:5-3:00 pm*. Reservation required. 10008 Mount Rainier Dr., 292-8093 or 963-8364. yogasolutions@gmail.com.

new year's eve guide

BY JESS SAUER

clubs & eateries

ANCHOVIES Oh cheeky cheeky. Oh naughty sneaky. Swingers' club Anchovies rings in the New Year with a "bang" (their words). Dress in formal attire with something slinky underneath. "Group lodging" at the Austin Ambassador Hotel. Wink, wink. *8pm-3am. Austin Ambassador Hotel, 7800 N. I-35. \$60 (\$20, single women), regular seating; \$80 (\$30, single women), VIP seating; \$75, hotel accommodations. www.anchoviesaustin.com.*

ANTONE'S We're not going to pretend that seeing Bob Schneider at Antone's is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but this is your last chance to see him in 2005, okay? *Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424.*

ARARAT has a lot more to offer than baba ghanoush this New Year's. They're hosting a masquerade with pomegranate champagne, Renaissance fire dancing by House of Rhoaad, a performance by drag troupe Kings N Things with "extra special surprise guests," and, as Ararat puts it, a "trip through our special human buffet served live on Hokaie." We couldn't make this shit up if we tried. *BYOB. 7pm-3am. Ararat, 111 E. North Loop, 419-1692. \$40, parties of two or more; \$30, buffet; \$15, backyard party. www.araratrestaurant.net.*

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Say aloha to 2005 and get leid at the restaurant formerly known as D&L's Texas Music Cafe. Their New Year's luau features Combo Mahalo and men in (grass) skirts. *Beck's on Congress, 1321 S. Congress, 445-4441.*

BROKEN SPOKE Like your ceilings low and your bathroom stalls doorless? Head to Austin's famed honky-tonk for an evening with hardcore countryman Alvin Crow. Rest assured that, as owner James White says, they ain't fancy, but they're damn sure country. Yuppies beware. *The Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189.*

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Want to go where everybody knows your name? We can't promise that, but we are betting everybody will know the words at the Carousel Lounge's New Year's show. Celebrate with Austin's favorite (and, perhaps, only) TV-theme-song cover band, Greatest American Heroes. *Carousel Lounge, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790. www.greatestamericanheroes.com.*

CONTINENTAL CLUB The LeRoi Brothers are ushering the new year in with Eve & the Exiles and Toni Price tonight. Get on it ASAP; Continental Club events sell out like greased lightning. *9pm. Continental Club, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444.*

EMO'S Break out the Royal Crown and hop in your jet-black Cadillac: Emo's is hosting psychobilly locals the Flametrick Subs this New Year's. They'll be joined by special guests Slick57 and Basin Street. *Emo's, 603 Red River, 477-EMOS.*

FABRIC Get gussied up and put the ass back in class at Fabric's first night fiesta on Fifth. Watch the ball drop and drop it like it's hot. *9pm. Fabric, 101 W. Fifth, 322-9333.*

FLAMINGO CANTINA Keep it irie at the New Year's Reggae and Dub Ball with Grimy Styles, Tribal Nation, and Mau Mau Chaplains. Catered Caribbean food and a mellow mood are guaranteed, and we imagine the only jerk there will be the chicken. *8:30pm. Flamingo Cantina, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336. \$12. www.flamingocantina.com.*

HOLE IN THE WALL Want to know what exactly Scott H. Biram's Champagne Chicken Roast is? Well then, guess you'll just have to go to the Hole in the Wall and find out. Jane Bond opens. *10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747. \$10.*

JOVITA'S The Gourds are holding down the fort at Jovita's New Year's celebration tonight. Will there be a ram's blood toast at midnight? One can only speculate. *Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825.*

LA ZONA ROSA Outlaw Joe Ely electrifies the Warehouse District's own red-light district, with Reckless Kelly opening. *9pm. La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293. \$42 (\$39, advance).*

REED'S There's a multicourse dinner upstairs, but the real party at this Warehouse District staple is downstairs, where the dance floor will be in full swing as Cienfuegos play Cuban jazz. There will be party favors, an a la carte menu, and the obligatory champagne toast at midnight. *8:30pm. Reed's Jazz & Supper Club, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 342-7977. \$75.*

RUTA MAYA The South Congress standby is throwing a bash with DJ Blip, the Devil Bat, ST 37, Rubble (with King Coffey), and Tia Carrera for your ears. Your eyes, meanwhile, can feast on multimedia work by the infamous Lori Surfer. *9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.*

STUBB'S There's no reason New Year's has to be fomal. This is Austin, for chrissakes. Stubb's New Year's fete features a barbecue buffet and music by the South Austin Jug Band. There's also a midnight champagne toast to wash down the Lone Star. *9:30pm. Stubb's Bar-B-Q, 801 Red River, 480-8341. \$27.*

TAMBALEO On a night where you're meant to be looking to the future, Tambaleo wants to transport you to the darkest reaches of fashion's past: the Eighties. Break out the Aquanet and put on your best Eighties formalwear (Does Benetton make tuxes?). We don't know about the caviar dreams, but there will most certainly be champagne wishes. *Tambaleo, 302 Bowie, 391-0397. \$20. www.tambaleo.com.*

THE PARISH The elevenpiece Grupo Fantasma are famous for getting their audiences moving with their self-described mix of Afro-Latin funk, dancehall, cumbia, and dub. Their New Year's Eve show at the Parish, with DJ Starsign and Maneja Beto opening, is likely to be no exception. *10pm. The Parish, 214 E. Sixth, upstairs, 478-6372. \$25 (\$20, in advance).*

theatre, comedy, and more

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB: GREG WARREN Local faves Brendon Walsh and Doug Mellard open for this touring funnyman, and the late show includes party favors, a champagne toast when the new year clicks in, and a breakfast buffet after the hilarity's subsided. *Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research Blvd. #100, 467-2333. \$20, 8pm show; \$37.50, 10:30pm show. www.capcitycomedy.com.*

CAPITAL CITY MYSTERY PLAYERS Don't worry if the liquor ribs you of your sea legs, the Capital City Mystery Players' New Year's Eve Cruise Ship Crime is docked safely at the Spaghetti Warehouse. Set aboard "Carnivore Cruiselines," this evening involves missing jewels and, you guessed it, a murder that you help solve. That's not all though: If you haven't been in a real conga line recently, here's your chance to participate in a theatrical one. *Meta. 7 & 10pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$119, couple. www.capcitymystery.com.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Don Weeda provides the New Year's serenade at AIFD's party, which promises to be so folking awesome it necessitates the use of a pun we swore we'd never make. Scandinavian and request dances all night long, but no alcohol allowed, which is a shame because we hear Contra dancing and Cointreau do mix. *7:30pm-1am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-7765. www.yastreb.com/tifd/aifd.html.*

GAG REFLEX NEW YEAR'S COMEDY BASH This is Gag Reflex's fourth annual New Year's show, and what with its sold-out track record, you'll need to hustle to get a seat. Forget "Auld Lang Syne," the group's busting out a heavily musical sketch show lambasting such topics as "office Friday cleaning, rabid mimes, Star Trek, pets, therapy, cooties, Laura Bush, the conservative takeover of PBS, diner-speak, Patsy Cline, and the avian flu." That is a mouthful. The late show features champagne, door prizes, and free pizza! *7 & 10pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY, 731-3945. \$20, 7pm show; \$40 (\$75, couples), 10pm show. www.gagplanet.com.*

HOLIDAY POPS We're only halfway through, but if you're already weary of the Noughts, let Five by Design transport you back to the Forties with *Radio Days*, presented by the Austin Symphony Orchestra. They're breaking out big band *Billboard* chart-toppers to suit all your nostalgic needs. *8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 476-6064. \$25, general; \$40, tables.*

THE SMALL STARS & THE WHITE GHOST SHIVERS Go east for one of the evening's most eccentric events. Local favorites the Small Stars and the White Ghost Shivers are presiding over



KEITH AND MARGO'S 15TH ANNUAL MURDER MYSTERY MADNESS Dining, dancing, and death are guarantees at this event. There's no telling who the victims will be, but with the venerable Keith O'Leary and Margo Morrison in charge, you can trust that it won't be an obvious character actor. The duo promise no French maids, no Clue-esque punny names, and not one, not two, but three deaths. Go, or Father Time gets it. *8:30pm. Omni Austin Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row, 888/U-SOLVE-IT. \$277 per couple (room not included). www.murdermysterytexas.com/austinNYE.html.*

this New Year's spectacular, a circus featuring stilt-walkers, fire dancers, vaudevillian villains, Brazilian martial artists, and freaks of all stripes. It's worth it for its worthy cause, too, with proceeds going to the Handsome Joel Foundation. They're expecting 1,000 attendees; will you be one of them? *8:30pm. Blue Genie Art Industries, 916 Springdale, 444-6655. \$45 (\$35, in advance). newyeareve.the-smallstars.com, www.whiteghostshivers.com.*

ZACHARY SCOTT THEATRE If you agree with Bill O'Reilly that "happy holidays" is anti-Christian sloganeering, why not give New Year's the finger by ... celebrating Christmas again! Or, heck, if you just happened to be sleeping all month and missed Lee Eddy in *The Santaland Diaries*, Zach Scott's got you covered. *Shear Madness* and Zach's annual *Rockin' Christmas Party* are also playing, so hurry up, before it's Easter season. *Through Dec. 31. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. www.zachscott.com.*

hotels

DRISKILL HOTEL The Driskill Grill offers two dinner seatings for New Year's: a five-course dinner at 5:30pm and a whopping eight courses at 8pm. The dishes promise to be as delicious as they are unpronounceable, but beware, the Kurobuta Pork Belly is only available in the second sitting. Both meals include champagne and will be accompanied by jazz piano. *Sat., Dec. 31. Driskill Grill, 604 Brazos, 391-7162.*

HYATT REGENCY The riverside hotel is offering a party package that includes a cocktail reception, buffet dinner, and New Year's Eve party with a countdown they describe as "spectacular." There's also a late check-out time so you can sleep off the champagne. The Little Big Band will be providing presumably oxymoronic music, and attire is semiformal, like junior year. *7:30pm-12:30am. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. \$399 per couple.*

INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN The posh downtown hotel has three different packages to choose from for New Year's. Order from the five-course prix fixe menu at Cafe Julienne or skip dinner altogether and indulge in the hors d'oeuvres and desserts at the party. That way you can save room for the midnight champagne toast. Pianist Margaret Wright tickles the ivories at the party. *6-10pm, dinner; 9pm-2am, party. InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress, 457-8880. \$289-389.*

RADISSON The bats are gone for now, but you can watch the city go bat-poop crazy from a room with a view at the Radisson. The hotel is offering New Year's Eve packages, perfect for those planning on attending First Night Austin. *Sat., Dec. 31. Radisson, 111 E. Cesar Chavez, 478-9611.*

more fun stuff

AUSTIN SOCIAL SCENE Move and shake with the movers and shakers of Austin at Austin Social Scene's 13th annual New Year's Gala. Featuring LC Rocks, the Calico Kings, the Crush, and Taboo. Legend has it that this party is legendary. *8pm-2am. DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35, 331-7890. \$45. www.austinsocialscene.com/nye2005.htm.*

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN Spend New Year's riding through the Hill Country on the Twilight Flyer. The four-hour ride includes a buffet, and either the onboard comedian or open bar will have you rolling in the aisles. *Departs from Cedar Park. 9pm-1am. Departs from Cedar Park, 477-8468. www.austinsteamttrain.org.*

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN is an alcohol-free arts festival taking place citywide tonight. There are dance, spoken word, and theatre performances, art exhib-

its, live music, video installations, puppets – more than we can list here. There will be free events outside, and indoor events can be entered with a \$10 admission button. Check their Web site for a full program, and this week's *Chronicle* for more detailed coverage. *\$10 (\$8, advance). www.firstnightaustin.org.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE FOR PIMPS AND HOES Fadó, one of your traditional Irish pubs, is offering what they call the "only 2000Sex party" in town, with a "Pimp of the Year" contest at 1am, followed by a "Hoe of the Year" contest at 1:30am. (Why the hoes gotta follow is beyond us, but it seems in keeping with the favored pimps-up-hoes-down attitude of the industry. Whatever happened to ladies first?) All of this is accompanied by two champagne toasts, one at 6pm to accommodate the time difference in good old Ireland and one at the usual midnight hour. Talk about bangers and mash. *Sat., Dec. 31, 9pm. Fadó, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172. \$15 (\$10, advance).*

SENIORS' NEW YEAR LUNCH CELEBRATION One step ahead of the rest of us, the JCAA is hosting a New Year's luncheon for seniors the day before New Year's. Between you and me, New Year's was sooo three months ago. *Fri., Dec. 30. JCAA Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart Ln., 735-8086. \$4.*

stay safe

AMERICAN YELLOW CHECKER CAB Do yourself and everyone else a favor and leave the car at home if you're planning on tying one on tonight. Through their soberRide program, American Yellow Checker Cab is giving free rides to the inebriated this New Year's. Rides must originate within city limits, be under \$30 (or you pay the difference), and you must be over 21. Also, this is a ride home, not to another bar, you lush, you. *11pm-4am. American Yellow Checker Cab Co., 452-9999.*

AUSTIN DESIGNATED DRIVER We're friends, right? And friends don't let friends drink and drive. Ten percent of all alcohol-related traffic deaths in America take place in Texas. There are a few No. 1 positions we shouldn't be proud of in this state, but this is just pathetic. Do your part to change it. Austin Designated Driver is there to be responsible when you haven't been, and they'll drive your car home for you for the same cost as a cab ride. No excuses. *9pm-3am. 775-2918. \$2.95/mile (credit cards accepted). www.austindesignateddriver.com.*

CAPITAL METRO Austin's public transportation system has no shortage of socially lubricated passengers on any given day, but you can bet they'll have a surplus tonight.

for the kids

AUSTIN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM If midnight is past your kiddo's bed time, the Austin Children's Museum has got you covered with party-hat making, snacks, and balloon drops at noon and 2pm. Put some shades on the little ones and they won't realize it's not quite Eve yet. *10am-5pm. Austin Children's Museum at Dell Discovery Center, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$5.50 (\$3.50, kids ages 12-24 months).*

AUSTIN ROCK GYM LOCK-IN Think you'll find a babysitter this New Year's? Not likely. Lucky for you, there's the Austin Rock Gym Lock-In, an all-night event where your kids can learn to belay, sweat off those sugar cookies and latkes on the gym's climbing walls, and rock out to their favorite music. Just be sure you're lucid by the 7am pickup time. Sign-up deadline: *Wed., Dec. 28. 8pm-7am. Austin Rock Gym, 4401 Freidrich, 416-9299. www.austinrockgym.com.*

Theatre

OPENING

A TUNA CHRISTMAS Charles Duggan presents Joe Sears and Jaston Williams reprising their original comedy of the most human of holiday errors. Yes, the Tuna crowd's been on Broadway, performed at the nation's capital, and so on, but you know they'll especially shine when bringing the "third smallest town in Texas" to life on the posh yet familiar Paramount stage. Two talented men, many diverse roles, and only J. Edgar Hoover knows how many dresses combine to give you a manic eyeful of what Southern-fried busybodies, wacky reprobates, desperate housewives, good ol' boys, and just plain folks can turn Christmas into: a hilarious, tinsel-strewn, sugarplum-splattered catastrophe. *Jan. 3-8. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$17-42. www.austintheatre.org.*

★ **THE DIONYSIUM** Buzz Moran and L.B. Deyo's Monthly Night of Entertainment for Thinking People (tm) welcomes the new year with a pivotal scene from Beckett's *Endgame*, a declamation of William Jennings Bryan's influential "Cross of Gold" speech, an appreciation of Wittgenstein's "Tractatus," Brenna Reinhardt lecturing on Vikings, and the usual alcohol-fueled, song-spiked revelry among the aisles of Alamo Drafthouse South. *Tue., Jan. 3, 7:30pm. Alamo South Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320. \$5. www.dionysium.com.*

CLOSING

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY ZACH's annual, wintertime, Motown-inflected musical spectacular comes a-jingling and a-tinseling and a-sha-la-la-lahing back to the stage, with the Beehive Girls and friends decked out in holiday finest and belting tunes fit to melt even the Cold Miser's permafrost heart. What's the director's first name? Dave. And you know the rest. *Through Jan. 1. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 & 8pm; Sun., 2:30 & 7pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. www.zachscott.com.*

Joe Sears and Jaston Williams in your stocking? Unlikely. But the two of them
▼ onstage in the funniest little hometown comedy this side of the Rockies? Yes, at the Paramount Theatre.



SHEAR MADNESS The longest-running comedy in Zachary Scott Theatre's history is back, under the direction of Alice Wilson and Dave Steakley. Paul Portner's script provides murder among the curlers in this funny whodunit where you play armchair detective, uncover the secrets, and help an outrageous cast of characters solve the crime amidst a trendy Austin hair salon. Now with Robert Newell! *Held over through Dec. 31. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$28-38. www.zachscott.com.*

ONGOING

WHEN PIGS FLY Naughty Austin shreds the boundaries of extravagance and camp with this musical comedy revue directed by Blake Yelavich from a script by Dick Gallagher, Howard Crabtree, and Mark Waldrop. Mermaids, show girls, gargoyles, and more. Totally over the top – any top. *Through Jan. 14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. www.artsonreal.com.*

★ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE** is the possibly multiple-personality-disordered Rob Nash performing Dickens' classic through scarily spot-on impersonations of Mae West, Judy Garland, Humphrey Bogart, Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and the like. How one man can be so talented, one show so delightfully twisted, only Santa knows for sure – and Nash probably has him locked in a dungeon somewhere. *Through Jan. 7. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

★ **THE SANTALAND DIARIES** David Sedaris' acerbic holiday treat returns to Zach Scott with a brand new elf, and OMG! It's *Lee Eddy!* Fresh from her stint in *Keepin' It Weird*, the woman noted as Best Actress in the *Chronicle's* recent "Best of Austin" issue dons the elfin haberdashery for a show, also featuring the talents of Meredith McCall and pianist Jason Connor, that will turn any coal in your stocking into diamonds. Directed by who? Yes: Dave Steakley. *Through Jan. 8. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 6pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$28-38. www.zachscott.com.*

AUDITIONS

FRONTERAFEST: LATINO ACTORS NEEDED To perform in *Among the Sand and Smog*, a new play about the disappearances and murders of young women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Needed: females (ages 18-45); males (ages 25-30). E-mail résumés and inquiries to the address provided below, or call 569-6101. johnsmithatx@hotmail.com.

FRONTERAFEST: GENERAL Short comic piece needs actors (two male, one female), plus tech/stage manager/director. Pay is minimal. *Call Hal at 278-1365.*

RED CANS is the newest from Rubber Repertory, and they're looking for "physically flexible and/or petite performers" to help create this daring new show (with rehearsals in January). Dancers and athletes encouraged to audition. Call for appt. 470-1735. www.rubberrep.org.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

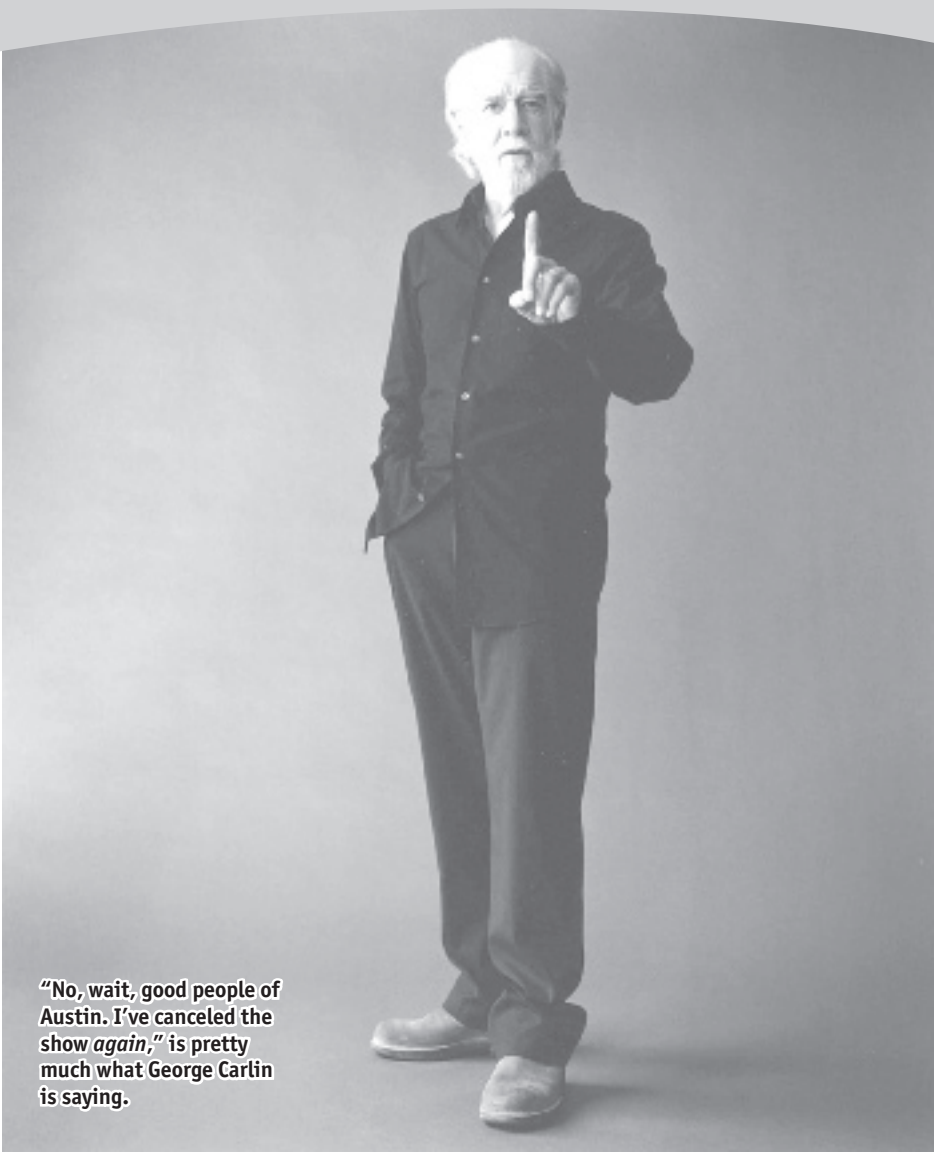
CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research Blvd. #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Open Mic Comedy Sit back and relax with a cold one while you watch seasoned pros and up-and-comers knocking themselves out humorwise for your benefit (and to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter). *Sundays, 8pm. \$2 (free, college students).*

Greg "Uncle Earl" Warren hits Cap City with a grand slam of comedy, following openers by Brendon Walsh and Doug Mellard. Now this here's a truly Austin-style comedy knockoff a show, with a feted New Year's celebration, too – check our New Year's Guide for more. *Dec. 29-31. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$4.50-12.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies wreaks some havoc on seasonal tribulations with their usual fast-paced



"No, wait, good people of Austin. I've canceled the show *again*," is pretty much what George Carlin is saying.

brilliance, featuring a preview of the upcoming governor's race, the South Austin Chamber of Commerce, Shannon Sedwick channelling Patsy Cline, an almost X-rated Dr. Suess, and so hilariously on, with much comedy-riddled song and dance and that spectacular magician Ray Anderson. *Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military.) Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688.

Improv Alifer brings you a veritable clusterfuck of Austin improv troupes in one show, battling to see which one's really gonna send the old year out in style. You think, what? That they just make this stuff up? *Fridays, 9pm. \$6.*

Steel Cage Improv Bars do not a prison make, they say, and so this steel cage is in the mind. But the mind, like love, is one hell of a battlefield. And so's the Hideout's stage as two improv troupes duke it out to determine, evolutionarily, which gets to continue to *next* week's show. Oh baby, the gloves are off for this one. *Fridays, 10:30pm. \$6.*

Maestro Your talented Heroes of Comedy and their guests battle it out improv-style from audience suggestions, creating a sort of spontaneity-death-match on the Hideout's upstairs stage. Recommended. *Saturdays, 10:30pm. \$7.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.

Andre Meadows says "It's tough being a black nerd," but it's not so tough being in the audience when this talented man gets his funny on. You'll be laughing so hard it'll fry your CPU's humor subroutine faster than you can say Oliver Wendell Jones. And besides, when being a black nerd's too tough and funny, Meadows shifts gears as the negrolicious hip-hop artiste Arnie Sykes. Not enough names to entice you? How about openers Sean Carey and Lucas "Sweet Jesus, I'm Fucking Funny" Molandes? *Fri., Dec. 30, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

★ **NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF COMEDY: THE ROSE BOWL** Sports and improv collide here in ways that would put, we reckon, MST3K to shame. When undefeated UT goes up against top-ranked USC, gridironwise, comedy play-by-play and color commentary for the TV broadcast will be provided live, in spades, by the inimitable duo of Jeremy (Available Cupholders) Lamb and Mike (The Knuckleball Now) D'Alonzo. You like sports, but not comedy? You'll like this. You like comedy, but not sports? You'll like this. You like them both? Pallie, you'll love this testosterone-energizing evening of improv! Also, there'll be hot dog and beer vendors roaming the audience. *Wed., Jan. 4, 7pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$7. www.availablecupholders.com.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 13 issue is Monday, Jan. 2.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy. brenner@austinchronicle.com.
Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical. dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.
Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.
Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor. brenner@austinchronicle.com.

✴ **GEORGE CARLIN** Well, we were stoked. We were gonna catch this cat's fine act. But, at the last minute, we got a call from people who'd been contacted by his people. And the show is off. Yet again. Ah, shit. Ah, piss. And the other five words as well.

Dance

1,001 NIGHTS

ARARAT: NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE Wear a mask and usher in the New Year in mysterious and madcap Middle Eastern style. A full lineup of belly dancers, fire dancers, drag kings, and bio queens are augmented by a chocolate-and-fruit buffet served live on the restaurant's favorite red head, "Hocake" (no, really). Then raise a glass to 2006 with the pomegranate-champagne toast and buzz next door for the super fly dance party. A variety of dinner options available, please phone for reservations. Prize awarded to the best masquerade costume. No prizes for repeat visits to the human buffet. Sat., Dec. 31, 7pm-3am. 111 E. North Loop. 419-1692. \$15 (\$30, Middle Eastern Buffet; \$40-45 for sit-down dinner; \$5, after-midnight dance party only). www.araratrestaurant.net.

TWO LEFT FEET

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS Latin, swing, and other dance music in a nonsmoking, alcohol-free venue. No partner required, all ages welcome. Saturdays, 8pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek. \$6 (\$4, members, students). **ABD classes** Five-week sessions, beginners to advanced dancers. Tuesday & Thursday nights. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st. Prices vary. www.austinballroomdancers.org.

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Bellydancing (all levels), Flamenco, Salsa/Merengue, Creative Movement for kids 5 to 10 years old, and T'ai-Chi classes are all forming now. Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-9900. www.luciladance.com.

MORE ON THE FLOOR Phone the danceline to find what other opportunities can set your body in motion: presentations, workshops, master classes, and more. 416-5700 x3262. Or check out the Movin' Easy calendar online. www.movineasy.com.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to current, former, and new students (DI, UT, and other), these Ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice with your feet. Parties: Sundays, 6-8pm. Practices: Tuesdays 8-9pm. 8611 Green Valley Dr., 232-2623. www.dancein.org.

AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Traditional Swedish and Norwegian dances. Beginners welcome, no partners needed. New classes start every month. Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598 or 453-9633. \$3.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Learn dances from around the world for couples, singles, and everybody at once. Beginners wel-

come; no partner needed. Frequent live music. Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons) followed by an open dance. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.yastreb.com/tifd/aifd.html.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. With live music. Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancock.htm.

AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS Come alone or with a partner; beginners always welcome (kilts optional). Thursdays, 7-9pm. Quicksilver Dance Studio, 8711 Burnet. First session free. www.austinscd.org.

SQUARE DANCE LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm. South Austin Senior Activity Center, 3911 Manchaca, 264-2642. \$45 (\$22.50, youth).

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.

NOTES & ENCORES

FIELDWORK: CALL FOR ENTRIES Choreographers, writers, performance artists, actors, comics, acrobats: If you can perform it, Fieldwork wants it. This six-week workshop provides emerging and established artists the opportunity to present works-in-progress to peers, to receive "rigorously honest feedback, in a strictly directed format, as the work develops." It all culminates in performances at Cafe Dance. Starting Feb. 12. Contact Peggy Lamb for details. 833-0179. \$75. www.messagepublications.com.

FIRE! CHECK OUT OUR GLASS BEADMaking CLASSES



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New Year's Eve with GREG WARREN and Brendon Walsh



GABRIEL IGLESIAS




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to WIN tickets to see L.O.T.D. log on to www.austinchronicle.com/contests

AUSTIN'S FAVORITE COMEDY OPENS TUESDAY!

Don't miss the Original Broadway Cast
JOE SEARS JASTON WILLIAMS
In the Hilarious Hit

A TUNA Christmas



"Brilliant! Funny!"
- Washington Post

"A Comic Masterpiece!"
- ABC Radio

"It's a hoot! And the cast is two hoots!"
- New York Times

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Tickets available at the Paramount Theatre box office and all Gettix outlets including Pinky's Wireless and Waterloo Records. Groups call: 512.692.0531
Showtimes: Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7:30pm

Classical Music

NOTES & ENCORES

CAPITAL CITY MEN'S CHORUS: NEW SINGING MEMBERS SOUGHT They said it, not us: CCMC, given to fits of boisterous pop melody mixed with Broadway numbers and gregarious good times, is accepting new singing members. A variety of spring-time concerts awaits talented, experienced, fun-loving singers. *Mon., Jan. 9. Call for appointment. 477-SING. www.ccmaustin.org.*

AUSTIN CHAMBER MUSIC CENTER: ENROLLMENT FOR SPRING CHAMBER MUSIC ACADEMY Study and perform chamber music, led by some of Austin's finest classical musicians in one of Austin's longest-serving academies. School-age and adult sessions forming for the spring semester. Registration forms, tuition forms, and class information may be found online. Call for appt. Auditions: *Sun., Jan. 8. Ascension Lutheran Church, 6420 Hart, 454-7562. www.austinchambermusic.org.*

OPENING

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: FIVE BY DESIGN'S "RADIO DAYS" This pops concert rings in the New Year with a look back at the music of the early 1940s, as sung by vocal quintet Five by Design, backed by ASO under the baton of Boogie Woogie Peter Bay. Croony hits mingle with big band numbers as we bid a fond farewell to 2005. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 30-31, 8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. \$25 (theatre seating) & \$40 (table seating). www.austinsymphony.org.*

Visual Arts

OPENING

NORTH HILLS GALLERY presents works by David Kroft, head of the Art Department at Concordia University. Reception: *Sun., Jan. 8, 12:15-1:30pm. Exhibition: Jan. 4-30. 7050 Village Center Dr., 345-1743.*

CLOSING

D BERMAN GALLERY presents "Billow & Fold," a series of new paintings by Austin artist Sydney Yeager, whose vividly hued paintings continue to evolve and delight. *Through Jan. 2. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

OSWALD GALLERY presents Jerry Uelsmann, legendary pioneer of photomontage and multinegative printing, and Maggie Taylor, renowned contemporary photo collage artists. Uelsmann and Taylor, married since 1989, represent the polar opposites in photographic process; Uelsmann works in the darkroom, while Taylor works digitally. *Through Jan. 3. 714 Congress #200, 494-9440.*

YARD DOG FOLK ART presents oodles of new drawings by Jad Fair, co-founder and frontman for the legendary punk rock band Half Japanese, whose paintings and paper cuttings have been exhibited throughout the world. *Through Dec. 31. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613.*

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM presents the many wonders of "Collecting Latin American Art." *Through Dec. 31. 419 Congress, 480-9373.*

F8 FINE ART GALLERY presents "The Fourth Season," with works by painter Ray Donley and fine art photographer Rosanne Olson. Donley unveils haunting portraits executed in his rich Baroque style. Olson proves to be part shaman, part shutterbug by merging animal intuition with human form in dark fairy-tale images. *Through Dec. 31. 1137 W. Sixth, 480-0242. www.f8fineart.com.*

CAMP FIG: BILL IVEY VS. THE FUTURE See what happens when four artists (Tim Brown, Lance McMahon, Josh Rios, and Enoch Rios) challenge Bill Ivey, conceptual sage and professor of Art at Texas State, to a duel at sundown. Hint: It'll fill this downtown space. *Saturdays, 1-5pm, through Dec. 31. 305-B E. Fifth, 698-0327. www.campfig.com.*

THE VARIETY SHOW presents the varied concepts and mediums of local and not-so-local visual artists, as curated by Mike Parsons and friends, in near phantasmagoric proportions at that new gallery called Shiny Object. *Through Dec. 31. 509 W. 18th, 469-5901.*



▲ A veritable quincunx of gorgeous voices, Five by Design joins the Austin Symphony for some masterful melodies and harmonies.

STUDIO 107 presents "Holiday Punch," featuring the work of Bennie Flores Ansell, Candace Briceno, Jonas Criscoe, Leona-Scull Hons, Brian & Stella Alesi, and many more in this highly recommended show. *Through Dec. 31. 411 Brazos #107, 477-9092. www.studio107.com.*

ART ON 5TH: CRITTER ART This popular space gets its animal on for the holidays, with 10 artists and their creations conjuring up a veritable bungle in the jungle. *Through Dec. 31. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

ARS IPSA: TEMPORARY DIVIDERS features assemblage, printmaking, and installation by Logan Hill, Heather Johnson, Laura Latimer, Ted Ollier, Clif Riley, and Emilio Villarruel. *Through Dec. 31. Second & San Antonio, 633-2282. www.arsipsa.com.*

ONGOING

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

BLUE SKIES FRAME COMPANY "Landscapes of Death Valley" showcases the photography of Gordon MacGregor in the Let's Get Small Gallery. *4408 Medical Pkwy., 302-4779.*

★ **THE FACE OF TEXAS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL O'BRIEN** includes 43 of O'Brien's large-scale photographs that celebrate the individuality and independent spirit of Texas through portraits of its people – a fascinating and diverse array of native and adoptive Texans, from powerful big-city movers to unique small-town characters. *Through Jan. 8. 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix Ave., 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.*

★ **CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY: HEYDAYS** is a multifaceted series of events and participation opps presented by students at UT's Department of Art and Art History for the Austin public. Definitely check their Web site! *Through Jan. 14. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099. www.uts.cc.utexas.edu/~crlab.*

CULTURAS DE ARTE is a new gallery featuring Mexican folk art (statues, paintings, home decor, masks, and more) as well as unique works by

proprietor Julian Orozco. *3311 N. I-35 Ste. C, 473-2302. www.artcultures.com.*

DIAZ GALLERY presents fresh work by Ebbessen Davis, Rick Van Dyke, Aaron Speyer, Nicole Filz, Stephanie Freedman, Blake Yantis, and Christopher Fitzgerald. *Through Jan. 31. 3507 S. First, 444-0013.*

DIBONA STUDIO Here's a studio/gallery devoted exclusively to the work of Joyce DiBona, including her newest oil paintings and a recently completed sculptural tattoo series. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

FIRE ISLAND HOT GLASS STUDIO Specializes in functional and decorative works in glass for home and garden. Glassblowing demos: *Saturdays, 9am-noon. 3401 E. Fourth, 389-1100. www.fireislandglass.com.*

FLUX GALLERY presents "The Best of 2005," 35mm photography by Rey Shaun Maldolara. *Through Jan. 13. 2401 E. Sixth, Bldg. 2, 320-0753. www.austinfluxstudio.com.*

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY presents the photographic work of Kim Francois. *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

GALLERY LOMBARDI'S XMAS EXPO offers the unique wares of fine art from more than 50 area artists, including Alejandra Almuelle, Tom Besson, Nancy Lay, Sharon Smith, and Rick Van Dyke. *Through Jan. 7. 910 W. Third, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

GALLERY SHOAL CREEK presents new monotypes and abstractions by longtime gallery artists Priscilla Hoback and Tony Saladino. *Through Jan. 14. 1500 W. 34th, 454-6671.*

GALLERY SOCO carries original art in various media, currently featuring works by Sylvia Angeli, Cheryl Tamborello, Jeff Scott, Lisa Fittipaldi, and others. *1714-A S. Congress, 442-5144.*

HARRY RANSOM CENTER "Ansel Adams: A Legacy" is an exhibition of 126 photographs that Adams assembled to demonstrate and commemorate his life's achievement in photography; it's the largest known collection created by Adams. *Through Jan. 1. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRHC.*

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY features original works by native Texan Kathy Womack. *411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.com.*

LAS AMERICAS FINE ARTS GALLERY presents new paintings and sculptures by artists from the Austin area, Mexico and Peru. Artists include Bob Coffee, Rick Calzadilla, Drew Randall, Tim Donovan, Ofelia Michil, and Augusto Brocca. For more information call 971-3643 or 467-7481. *1103 E. Sixth.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY presents "Slacker Economy," a solo exhibition by Conrad Bakker, featuring hand-carved and painted reproductions

of consumer products. Included in this exhibition will be 30 carved VHS video tapes of Richard Linklater's 1991 film, *Slacker*. *Through Jan. 7. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

MANUEL'S MICRO GALLERY presents "Brenda Ladd: Musical Legends," art-brushed photo paintings. Works include the likes of Dr. John, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, and Marcia Ball. *Through Jan. 17. 310 Congress, 472-7555. www.manuels.com.*

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. *6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.*

PHOTOGECKO STUDIOS presents an array of film/digital artist John Campbell's black-and-white photographs. Monthly First Thursday events debut new images along with live music. *1413 S. First, 797-9375. www.photogecko.com.*

PRO-JEX GALLERY Now in its new post-fire location, this friendly and locally owned business offers original fine art photography and picture framing. *1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.*

REFLECT TIME is a video installation by Sally Weber. This inaugural piece of First Night Austin's New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts will be installed in the windows of the Scarbrough Building and shown daily from dusk to midnight. *Through Jan. 15. 101 W. Sixth, 477-7884.*

SLUGFEST GALLERY presents recent work by Slugfest Members. Get some beautiful art for Christmas by Slugfest members including Allison Aydelotte, Margie Crisp, Tom Druecker, Margaret Simpson, Jill Thrasher, and Eric Zimmerman. Christmas cookies every Saturday afternoon! *Exhibition: Tue.-Sat., Jan. 3-31, 1:30-6pm. 1906 Miriam, 477-7204.*

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN & MUSEUM presents "Modernist: Seven From the University of Texas." Works by David Adickes, Constance Forsyth, Seymour Fogel, John Guerin, Charles Umlauf, and Donald Weismann. *Through Dec. 30. 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582. www.umlauflsculpture.org.*

URBAN ROOTS GALLERY presents "Confession" by E. Moises Diaz, exploring everyday emotions through abstracted acrylics on paper. *1202-A W. Sixth.*

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY is a working studio and gallery of stained & leaded glass and mosaics artwork. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.*

ARTURO'S UNDERGROUND CAFE presents "Mardi Gras & New Orleans," paintings by Cara St. Marie. *Through Jan. 17. 314 W. 17th, 469-0380.*

ARTWORKS GALLERY features tropical butterflies artfully displayed in plexiboxes designed by GW Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT presents award-winning Mexican-American artwork and children's books. *Through Jan. 31. 3600 Presidential Blvd., 369-6600. www.ci.austin.tx.us/newairport.*

★ **CAFE JOSIE** displays the innovative photography of Bruce Hop. *1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226.*

▼ The colorful weiner dogs of Mindy Messinger are part of Art on 5th's "Critter Art" exhibition.





▲ Bonnie Gammill's distinctive "carscapes" are part of gallery Lombardi's current show.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of an, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt.* 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keeapaustinweird.com.

CROFTS ORIGINAL presents new jewelry in gold and silver by local artist Michelle Podell of Zahava Kala. 1714 S. Congress, 445-6308.

LAS AMERICAS FINE ARTS GALLERY presents new works by Peruvian painter and sculptor Augusto Brocca. Current Hours: *Weekends and by appt.* 1103 E. Sixth.

LITTLE CITY DOWNTOWN New works of abstract photography by Angie Steding, concentrating on the "microcosms of everyday life." *Through Dec. 31.* 916 Congress, 476-2489. www.angiesteding.com.

MAGNOLIA CAFE presents the paintings of Cara St. Marie. *Through Nov. 28.* 1920 S. Congress, 445-0000. www.cafemagnolia.com.

MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE presents paintings and sculpture by Augusto Brocca, Rachel Koper, Drew Randall, M. Raja, Shekar Roy, Douglas Brown, Jose Perez, and Youryoni Mylingham. *Through Jan. 31.* 311 W. Sixth, 236-9888.

NORWOOD GALLERY presents new works by AVAA artists Avram Dumitrescu, Ann Naylor, Christopher Hynes, Gred Campillo, Hayden Dunham, Taylor Winn, Walker Winn, Melanie Hickerson, Vee Sawyer, Oscar Silva, Bob Coffee, and Luis Abreux. Exhibit is on view 24/7 at the street level gallery windows. *Through Dec. 28.* 114 W. Seventh.

ROADHOUSE RELICS is a vintage-neon gallery and studio where artist Todd Sanders creates neon signs, eye-popping carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

PSYCHEDELIC RELICS is a collection of posters, prints, and paintings by R. Thies. *Through Jan. 4.* 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

WET SALON presents portraiture and figurative work of women by David de Lara. *Through Dec. 31.* 1109 S. Congress, 444-7375.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

AUSTIN ART IN PUBLIC PLACES is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to Texas artists interested in creating unique artwork for the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The budget for the project is \$120,000. The complete RFQ is listed on the AIPP Web site. Deadline: *Jan. 6.* COA is also seeking works for the "People's Gallery" at City Hall. Deadline: *Jan. 6.* 505 Barton Springs Rd. #850, 974-9312. www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS offers their space to the Austin Fireflies, a group of glass lamp-working enthusiasts, for monthly bead-making demonstrations, exchange of ideas and techniques on the last Saturday of each month. 5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

DIVERSEARTS is gearing up for its 17th annual Austin Jazz and Arts Festival. They're seeking volunteers to assist with preproduction and various responsibilities during the event. All inquiries should be addressed to Harold McMillan via e-mail, and specify "Volunteer" in the subject line. 1705 Guadalupe #234, 477-9438. info@diversearts.org.

IRON GATE STUDIOS DARKROOM offers their black-and-white darkroom with 24 hour access for \$75 a month. Check their Web site for details. 2205 E. Fifth, 495-9994. www.irongatestudios.org.

JORDAN GALLERY & STUDIOS Located in the retail section of Main Street in Smithville, Texas, this 1909 building has been completely remodeled and is now available for studio rental. Contact the proprietors via e-mail. 657-2491. jordangallery@austin.rr.com.

MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE is seeking submissions for a group exhibition. 2-D work can be up to 8 feet by 6 feet, and some 3-D works are acceptable. E-mail for more information. 311 W. Sixth, 236-9888. pictures_98@yahoo.com.

SPIRIT ECHOES ART FESTIVAL out in Round Top has extended the deadline for artist applications: *Jan. 2.* Check their Web site or call Melodie Spears Schmidt for more: 512/345-0706. 701 Brazos, in lobby of Omni hotel, 320-1492. www.spiritechoes.com.

CALL FOR WORKS for the very first All Horny Toad Art Show! All forms of media will be accepted. The only rule is that there must be a horned lizard (Texas State Reptile) somewhere in or on the piece of art. Three categories: Professional, Amateur, and Youth, with prizes for each category and cash prizes for the professional category winners. Entrance fee is only \$5 for everyone more than 19 years old and free to those younger. Check their Web site for details and applications. Event: *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 4-5, 10am-4pm.* 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 581-0377. www.hornedlizards.org.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK is soliciting proposals for individual and curated group exhibitions for its Gallery Artist Series to begin in January 2007. Check their Web site for details and applications. Deadline: *Postmarked by March 10.* 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org/callfor.htm.

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

WRITING ON THE AIR presents a commentary of literary quotes on the place and power of poetry in an enlightened and better world. Hosted by Dillon McKinsey. *Sat., Dec. 31, 4-4:30pm.* 91.7 KOOP-FM.

TEXAS NAFAS presents the new Texas Poet Laureate Alan Lee Birkelbach in a reading at the Poetry Society of Texas' 2005 festival. Texas Nafas airs every *Saturday 11am and 10pm* on Channel 16. farid@texasnafas.org.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

STORY CIRCLE NETWORK is a nonprofit organization for women, offering monthly reading and writing circles and more, in North, Central, and South Austin. 454-9833. www.storycircle.org.

FREE BOOKS FOR AUSTIN Regifting that rocks. The Friends Monster Book Store gives away free books every Saturday. *Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe. The Friends Monster Book Store, 1800 S. Fifth.* 974-7400.

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK is a supportive group of writers open to anyone struggling to get that stubborn writing project going, as well as to those who want a fresh critique on their completed work. No membership fee. *Tuesdays, 4:30pm. Note the new location. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar,* 653-7872. groups.yahoo.com/group/austinwritersblock.

NOT ONE HELL OF A LOT going on in this section at this time of year, as all the touring and lecturing writers, attached to some grand university or otherwise, seem to shrivel deep into the rugose folds of whatever passes for home, there to pen (or, more likely in these modern times, *type*) the tomes that will afford them fame and fortune (or, more likely, *heartbreak and penury*) in the year that lies ahead. Think of them, these poor, compulsive scribblers, toiling away in their ill-lit, scotch-fueled, self-consciously erudite stupors while you carouse with neckless abandon on the frost-limned streets of holiday cheer. Think of them, won't you, as you indulge in the merely visual and auditory, as you click your feverish way through innumerable video-enhanced Web sites of news and porn, as you thumb the buttons of your Xbox 360, fragging pixellated representations of NCOs or hypertrophied demonspawn, your avatar, well-armed and dripping ichor, triumphant amid fountains of digital blood and gore? Think of them, those antiquated practitioners of long-form text, as they tumble without hope toward the dreadful nadir of cultural relevance. And, yes, we did mean *neckless*. — Wayne Alan Brenner



LITTLE WALNUT CREEK BOOK CLUB explores higher math with *Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris. *Wed., Jan. 4, 6:30pm.* Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg, 836-8975.

MILWOOD BRANCH BOOK CLUB goes deep with the *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson. *Tue., Jan. 3, 7pm.* Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst, 339-2355.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

D'LO This L.A.-based performance artist will conduct a series of writing and performance workshops, Jan. 4-30. Workshops conclude with a staged performance at the end of January. Workshop themes are: Female Masculinity; Writing for Solo Stage Performance; and Creative Spirit: Activate! D'Lo is a Tamil Sri Lankan-American, political performance artist, and music producer. Her work includes comedy, hip-hop theatre, dance, poetry, and music. She has trained in South Indian music and dance in addition to her degree in ethnomusicology from UCLA and additional training in NYC in sound engineering. *ALL-GO's Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 472-1001 x106.* sharon@sharonbridgforth.com.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

FARFELU is a new nonprofit magazine devoted to the work of Austin writers and artists, seeking submissions for its first 2006 issue. Editors Elisabeth McKetta, Kim Pyle, and Michelle Lee seek work in all genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, paintings, drawings, cartoons, and photographs. Check their Web site for more. Deadline: *Jan. 1.* www.farfelumagazine.com.

YOUTH POETRY ANTHOLOGY The Austin International Poetry Festival is accepting submissions for its yearly juried Youth Poetry Anthology. Students who have poems chosen for the anthology receive one copy of the anthology and are invited to read their poem at the Youth Showcase on the last day of the festival. Open to all students K-12. See their Web site for details. Deadline: *Feb. 1.* www.aipf.org.

OPEN MICS

NEO-SOUL LOUNGE is hosted by B. Fran. *Wednesdays, 8:30pm.* Antonio's Tex Mex, 7522 N. I-35. www.southflavas.com.

AUSTIN JAVA COMPANY features open mic poetry and spoken word with your hosts, Rhiannon and Christopher Robin. *Thursdays, 6-10pm.* Austin Java Cafe & Bar, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829. www.austinjava.com.

CAFFEINATED POETRY (with added live music) is a new open-mic venue open to musicians and poets. Hosted by Thom the World Poet. *Wednesdays, 7-9pm.* Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry captains the crew that has all the best of stand-up, performance art, theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one electrifying evening. \$100 in prizes every week; open mic precedes the main event.

Wednesdays, 8pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. www.austinslam.com.

GENUINE POETRY is hosted by Eric Wheeler and Kathleen Romana. *Mondays, 7-9pm.* Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

HIDEOUT MIC is always an Open Universe event with your newest host, Bevin Shaw. *Mondays, 7-10pm.* The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 or canned food for Poets' Pantry. www.thehideout.org.

RUTA MAYA is hosted by Aaron Sanders and Mark Maslow. Bring canned food for the Poets' Pantry. *Tuesdays, 6-8pm.* Round robin: 6-7pm. Sign-up list: 7-8pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespeechart.com.

POETRY KARAOKE The Poetry Karaoke Orchestra backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets' Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm.* Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

MISCELLANEOUS

MONSTER BOOK SALE is the Friends of the Austin Public Library's annual fundraiser. Every week until they stop. \$1 for paperbacks and children's books, \$2 for hard covers, with hundred of books, CDs, DVDs, and more to choose from. *Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10am-2pm; Thursdays, 7-9pm.* 1800 S. Fifth in the old South Austin Post Office. 440-1241.

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND CALENDAR, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the School for the Blind, can be found at 12th Street Books and Curio Corner Books. \$15 buys a fine collector's item, glimpses into the history of a local landmark, rare photos, and support of a worthy cause. www.tsbvi.edu/school/seq.

MORE POETRY! *stop—be still—the moon is icy cold, white as death—the lake abandoned—the far away has gathered there just for you to see it: the thing you cannot get around—believe—the birds who still fly with it thru the night, their wings silent as clouds or a wanting—the forest like thick black fingers—it moves inside my heart—the world is forever & even songs will find rest—here in this far heaven (o heart)—how your soul slips inside my mouth when i say, even now: - yes - as if the hills or your face were turning. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

POEMS OF THE ISSUE

There was no doubt of who I am only I was to travel these pages of life, alone. Many tears of sadness and triumphs witnessed only by me in the gentle folds of a human nature made strong and weak. A patch worked blanket of silk and cotton threads covers me.

— judith

"I'm a poet, so I write poems," he said. How fortunate to answer a calling so purely. Me, I'm a poet so I work on old trucks. Any poet they can write poems.

— W. Joe Hoppe

Munich

D: Steven Spielberg; with Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Ciarán Hinds, Mathieu Kassovitz, Geoffrey Rush, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Yvan Attal, Hanns Zischler, Ayelet Zurer, Moritz Bleibtreu, Gila Almagor, Michael Lonsdale. (R, 164 min.)

Spielberg's take on the events following the murders of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich by the PLO faction Black September is riveting stuff – and not just because so few people seem aware that then-Prime Minister Golda Meir (here portrayed by doppelganger Lynn Cohen) ordered the covert assassinations of the men who organized the killings. With its deeply ambiguous moral compass swinging from one extreme to the next, it's also a horrifically topical meditation on the ultimate futility of vengeance, even when that vengeance seems entirely justified by previous events. And, of course, it speaks – with no ambiguity whatsoever – to the current state of Israeli/Palestinian affairs, a situation that, 33 years later, seems no closer to fruition than ever. Bana (*Hulk*) plays Mossad agent Avner, who is recruited away from his seven-month-pregnant wife (Zurer) – who tells her husband “I'm with you until I'm not” – and the trappings of a relatively sane middle-class existence to head a team that includes four other specialists in the field of mayhem: the straightforward South African assassin Steve (future James Bond Craig), forger Hans (Zischler), toymaker-turned-bombmaker Robert (Kassovitz), and cleanup man Carl (Hinds), who here acts as the group's misbegotten conscience when things begin to go haywire. Avner, unable to refuse a request from the prime minister (like so many of Spielberg's protagonists, he has parental issues that have since been sublimated into his passionate love for the fledgling nation of Israel), takes on this seemingly impossible mission with unlimited funding (“I want receipts!” his overhead and oversight man repeatedly demands) but not much else. And thus, one by one, the backers of Black September begin to fall. For those who only recall Bana from his bland showing as Ang Lee's super-thyroidal meltdown monster, his performance here is a revelation. Torn between his innate, everyman goodness – he demands proof from Rush's catty bureaucrat that the human beings he's involved in obliterating are firmly linkable to the events of September '72 – and his role as Meir's walking vendetta, he's one of Spielberg's most complex characters to date. Rush's work here, too, is a masterstroke. With his penchant for baklava by the seaside and his casual dismissal of Avner's Palestinian targets, he embodies the worst, and simultaneously



that which is most necessary, in a modern state besieged by enemies intent on nothing short of its total destruction. There are obvious parallels to current events, of course, and Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*) take tremendous pains to humanize both sides of the issue. When an inadvertent meeting with a group of PLO agents ends not in a bloodbath but in a dialogue, you realize, along with Avner, just how complex the Palestinian situation truly is; it's a fantastic and fantastical moment, and one that succinctly sums up the utter horror that rises hellishly from the moral morass of employing vengeance as state policy. At more than 2½ hours, *Munich* is dense, thoughtful filmmaking that nonetheless flies along as though it were tethered to the devil's own sled. Seething not only with multilayered, subtextual arguments, it's also a heck of a thriller, recalling everything from *Marathon Man* to *Three Days of the Condor* while mixing actual video footage of the Black September nightmare with some of the most finely calibrated – and stunningly humanistic – performances since Spielberg took on Oskar Schindler.

– Marc Savlov

★★★★ CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

New Reviews

THE PRODUCERS

D: Susan Stroman; with Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Uma Thurman, Will Ferrell, Roger Bart, Gary Beach, Jon Lovitz, Andrea Martin, Debra Monk. (PG-13, 134 min.)

Oversexed octogenarians, queeny homosexuals, and obsessed Nazis all outrageously figured in Mel Brooks' inspired 1968 comedy *The Producers*, a film that walked the fine line between the offensive and the funny with riotous effect. In the film version of the smash Broadway musical based on Brooks' comic chestnut, however, the same material has little shock value by today's standards – it's decidedly tame, almost to the point of being quaint. (Even the film's central set-piece, the swastika-crazy production number “Springtime for Hitler,” no longer seems in bad taste.) Still, the showbiz schtick in *The Producers*, which is grounded in the traditions of burlesque and vaudeville, can be pretty damn hilarious at times, thanks in large part to a cast led by Lane, a skilled hambone who knows his way around a one-liner. As the unscrupulous producer Max Bialystock, Lane frantically pulls out the stops in his character's quest to stage the worst show in Broadway history and become a millionaire in the process. His Tony-winning performance is blessedly intact here. Beach's performance as the effete, cross-dressing director Roger De Bris is even better here than it was onstage – he camps it up to high heaven, setting back gay rights 30 years. But even these

wonderfully over-the-top performances often feel constrained by first-time film director Stroman, whose inexperience behind the camera is all too apparent. While it would have been blasphemous for the film's directorial style to take center stage in lieu of Brooks' comedy, Stroman's static camera-work (particularly in the musical numbers) undercuts a lot of the laughs. Sure, not every film musical these days needs to reinvent the genre in the manner of *Moulin Rouge* or *Chicago*, but Stroman's flat and often lifeless direction does the film a disservice. Luckily, you can sit back and ignore the film's technical deficiencies (Brooks' own films were never stellar in that regard) and go with the nutty flow, enjoying arcane jokes about Franz Kafka novels and esoteric references to forgotten Anthony Newley musicals. In the world of Mel Brooks, everything is fair game and anything is good for a laugh. God bless Mel Brooks. – Steve Davis
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South



RUMOR HAS IT ...

D: Rob Reiner; with Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Costner, Shirley MacLaine, Mark Ruffalo, Richard Jenkins, Mena Suvari. (PG-13, 96 min.)

Fans of *The Graduate* should skip this strange comedy, which posits that the real-life inspiration for counterculture icon Benjamin Braddock grew up to be a cheesy, brainless high-tech zillionaire doing yoga and driving a Mercedes around Half Moon Bay. Baby-boomer Reiner has no qualms about selling out his generational cohort, and *Rumor Has It ...* is likewise aggressive with the Hollywood heartstrings – an unusual approach, since the script is pretty much off-the-wall. Saturnine Sarah (Aniston) goes home to satirized sunny Pasadena for the wedding of her Barbie-doll sister (Suvari, all bleached teeth and tennis whites) with her dependable, great-guy boyfriend (Ruffalo, a remarkable actor seemingly intent on transforming himself into Benjamin Bratt). There she discovers the family secret: Her grandmother (MacLaine) and mother inspired *The Graduate*'s Mrs. Robinson and Elaine, and their shared lover (Costner) might be her biological father. That's right: Ben Braddock grew up to be Kevin Costner. Heresy! Yet Costner does his best Hoffman-esque mumbling and shrugging – visible signs of acting from an overripe Ken doll who's almost a self-parody onscreen. This may be a spoiler, but I am obligated to inform you that once Aniston's character rules out Costner's paternity, they have sex. I say this because people should be warned about such things, perhaps even with a special rating. It's a bizarre and uncomfortable scenario, but Reiner plays it like

straight fluffy farce, which is probably a mistake. In the hands of a more innovative director, we'd be invited to explore our revulsion. Instead, it's passed off as a funny love triangle; we're actually supposed to be rooting for Aniston to pick the right guy. (And don't we just love rooting for Jennifer Aniston, America? She's fine in the film, very down-to-earth, like an actual woman but with better hair, a personal trainer, and upmarket styling.) MacLaine is absolutely loads of fun as the now sixtysomething seductress, but sadly she doesn't get to take a crack at Costner's twentysomething son (Mike Vogel), which shows you how the movie is just a tease. There's nothing shocking about a flat-ironed fashion plate fucking a dried-up, decades-older zillionaire; it's banal, but Reiner acts like he's giving us a glimpse of stocking. Yawn, which leaves only the jejune machinations of the romantic comedy for amusement. Costner whirls Aniston around in his private jet, takes her to breakfast in the wine country, and whisks her off to a ball – for which she produces a formal gown out of nowhere – and it's so goofy and illogical that it should be satire but is played as the most middle-of-the-road Cinderella wish fulfillment. Meanwhile, poor Ruffalo stands around with his thumb up his ass being the perfectly patient chick-flick boyfriend; you can almost see Gepetto working his strings. To be fair, whoever said there were 15 stories in Hollywood has now found a 16th in this mishmash. – Marrit Ingman
✪ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

WOLF CREEK

D: Greg McLean; with John Jarratt, Cassandra Magrath, Kestie Morassi, Nathan Phillips. (NR, 99 min.)

The first horror picture to be released by the Weinstein Co. (although it was purchased by the Dimension Films genre unit of their former company, Miramax), *Wolf Creek* is an accomplished Aussie version of *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* — right from its “based on actual events” setup to the final shot of its boogeyman slipping into the sunset with his rifle like Leatherface and his chainsaw. *Wolf Creek* is also a viscerally told slasher film that manages to do an awful lot with very little. With basically four characters and just a few sets, the film succeeds in making you reconsider taking that trip Down Under. It's grisly and suspenseful, an assault on the imagination as much as, if not more than, what's actually rendered. While returning from vacation, three college-aged friends detour to visit the scenic but remote Wolf Creek Crater, the site of an epic meteorite landing. When they return to their car after several hours at the crater, they find that their car will not start and their watches do not work. Stranded in the middle of nowhere, the three stay with the car until help seems to arrive in the form of Mick Taylor (Jarratt, who's also been cast in the upcoming Tarantino/Rodriguez film *Grind House*, according to IMDb.com). The man appears to be the Australian equivalent of a Southern good ol' boy. Although he strikes the group as slightly odd, they accept his promise to fix their car back at his place, which he warns is quite a distance away. Once there, they spend a drunken evening around the campfire, but when they wake up, their nightmare begins. Bound and tortured by Taylor in a variety of grotesque and gruesome ways (particularly the women), the kidnappees spend the whole second half of the movie trying to make an escape. Their fright is valid and their terror is capably made palpable by the filmmakers. Adding to

Openings

Munich (R)

The Producers (PG-13)

Rumor Has It... (PG-13)

Wolf Creek (NR)

Ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

✶ La bomba

the suspense is the anticipation of what will occur, since almost the entire first half of the movie is spent defining the relationships among the three vacationers and promoting hints of romantic intrigue. Ultimately, all this character detail is superfluous: Like the stopped watches at the crater, none of it is really pertinent to the rest of the story. *Wolf Creek* (much like the new Saw horror franchise) exists for no reason other than to inflict an acute sense of inescapable and inscrutable torture upon the story's victims — and, by extension, the audience. If that's what you're into, *Wolf Creek* should be a satisfying assault. — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

The Producers



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DOWNTOWN - 4TH AND COLORADO				
THU, DEC 29	THIRD COAST NITE: THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND	7:00		
	HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS: UP IN SMOKE	9:45		
FRI, DEC 30	HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS: HAROLD & KUMAR	7:00		
	HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS: DEEP BLUE	9:45		
SAT, DEC 31	CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEARS!!!			
SUN, JAN 1	HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS: HAROLD & KUMAR	7:00		
	HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS: HEAD	9:45		
MON, JAN 2	SUPER HAPPY FUN MONKEYBASH DX (VOL.1)	7:00		
	CAPTAIN BEEFHEART	9:45		
TUE, JAN 3	THE JERK with FREE pizza in a cup!	7:00		
	FITZCARRALDO NEW 35MM PRINT	9:45		
WED, JAN 4	UT FOOTBALL (FREE)	7:00		
	WEIRD WED (FREE) CAGED WOMEN	MIDNIGHT		
THU, JAN 5	THE JERK with FREE pizza in a cup!	7:00		
	SUPER HAPPY FUN MONKEYBASH (VOL.4)	9:45		

SOUTH LAMAR - 1120 SOUTH LAMAR BLVD					
BE HERE TO LOVE ME					715
DIONYSIUM (TUES) •					730
DICK AND JANE •	1200	210	430	730	950
HARRY POTTER		1150	320		
HOSTEL (THURS) •					1115
JESUS IS MAGIC					1050
KING KONG		1100	300	705	955
LION WITCH & WARDROBE		1215	330	645	940
RUMOR HAS IT •	1145	220	445	735	1000
WALK THE LINE		1230	345	700	1010
THE ROSE BOWL (WEDS - FREE!)				630	

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET					
HARRY POTTER		1200			
KING KONG		1100	300	700	950
LION WITCH & WARDROBE		1225	345	705	1010
THE RINGER •		140	425	715	1040
WALK THE LINE			340	710	1000
THE ROSE BOWL (WEDS - FREE!)				630	

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THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

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PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL Fri. - Thu. 10:00 10:30 1:00 1:30 4:00 4:30
7:00 7:30 10:00 10:30

★ **RUMOR HAS IT... (PG-13)** Fri. 10:15 12:40 2:55 5:05 7:20 9:35 11:50
Sat. - Thu. 10:15 12:40 2:55 5:05 7:20 9:35

★ **THE RINGER (PG-13)** Fri. 10:25 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:25 9:35 11:45
Sat. - Thu. 10:25 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:25 9:35

★ **FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG-13)** Fri. 10:10 12:10 2:10 4:10 7:10 9:10 11:10
Sat. - Thu. 10:10 12:10 2:10 4:10 7:10 9:10

★ **CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG)** Fri. 10:15 12:25 2:35 4:45 7:15 9:25 11:35
Sat. - Thu. 10:15 12:25 2:35 4:45 7:15 9:25

★ **KING KONG (PG-13)** Fri. 11:30 12:30 3:15 4:15 7:00 8:00 10:35 11:45
Sat. - Thu. 11:30 12:30 3:15 4:15 7:00 8:00 10:35

★ **THE FAMILY STONE (PG-13)** Fri. 10:05 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:30 9:55 12:20
Sat. - Thu. 10:05 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:30 9:55

SYRIANA (R) Fri. - Thu. 11:00 4:35 10:10

★ **HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13)** Fri. - Thu. 1:35 7:05

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First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

AEON FLUX

D: Karyn Kusama; with Charlize Theron, Marton Csokas, Jonny Lee Miller, Sophie Okonedo, Frances McDormand, Pete Postlethwaite, Amelia Warner. (PG-13, 95 min.)
Aeon Flux may be a mess, but it's a beautiful mess, full of the sort of far-futurist thinking that doesn't lack for nifty (and often depressing) ideas about where mankind is currently heading. Based on Peter Chung's mid-Nineties animated MTV series, the film is set 400 years in the future, after a killer virus has wiped out 99.9% of the world's population. A utopian society has grown up in the shadow of the apocalypse. As in all utopian societies, there's trouble afoot and rebels on the hoof, the latter arriving in the form of Theron's title character, an ultra-chic assassin possessed of an Anna Sui-meets-Richard Kern fashion sense. The film falters, however, when it comes to the script (by Phil Hay and Matt Manfredi): At moments it's all you can do not to giggle. While its heart is in the right place, Aeon Flux's head is just a little too high to make much sense. (12/09/2005) – Marc Savlov

★★ Metropolitan

★ **BE HERE TO LOVE ME: A FILM ABOUT TOWNES VAN ZANDT**
D: Margaret Brown. (NR, 99 min.)
Vivid yet impressionistic, Margaret Brown's film tribute to the singer-songwriter Townes Van Zandt can be as broad and rambling as one of the musician's story songs, but as acute and direct as one of his distinct turns of phrase. Brown does not seek to analyze the reasons for Van Zandt's abbreviated life, and the movie should intrigue newcomers to his music as well as longtime fans. The film is rich with his songs, and the flavorful sampling is enhanced by lots of interviews with colleagues and cohorts as well as family. Brown strikes it rich with the wealth of archival material available, but her real secret ingredient is the cinematography of Lee Daniel, whose contemporary roadside traveling footage is continuously used throughout the film as an evocative editing link. Brown seeks to learn the price paid and the happiness earned by living as this songwriter's songwriter did, in total devotion to his muse, his music. (12/09/2005) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

★ **BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN**
D: Ang Lee; with Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Williams, Anne Hathaway, Linda Cardellini, Randy Quaid. (R, 134 min.)
Enough with the "gay cowboy" label, a phrase that has a way of diminishing this amazing movie's focus and reach. *Brokeback Mountain* is a love story that's defined by its staggering heartbreak. The film is no more – or less – a gay cowboy movie than *Casablanca* is a hetero émigré romance or *King Kong* is a love story between human and simian. The lovemaking in *Brokeback* is modestly filmed by modern standards, a choice made by director Ang Lee who, apart from his last film, *The Hulk*, has never misjudged public taste. The passage of 20 years in a frustrating state of limbo is what makes *Brokeback* the romantic tragedy it is: The love itself isn't sad, only its seeming impossibility. Although it's possible to point to some weak spots in *Brokeback*, there is no movie this year that has moved my heart more. (12/16/2005) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ CAPOTE

D: Bennett Miller; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener, Clifton Collins Jr., Chris Cooper, Bruce Greenwood, Bob Balaban, Amy Ryan, Mark Pellegrino. (R, 98 min.)
Capote is a good film, but it hasn't closed the book on the subject, not by a long shot. First-time screenwriter Dan Futterman has narrowed his focus to the years surrounding Capote's work on the seminal *In Cold Blood*. The film provides an absorbing, if limited, look at the writing life: its physical and mental demands and its moral ambiguities. Director Miller (*The Cruise*) has created a film that is confident, mature, and measured, but all I wonder if it isn't too controlled. The beats are all there; Capote's trajectory begins with a reporter's initial

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE DOWNTOWN 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. Seating begins one half-hour before showtime. Admission is 18 and up. AFS events are all ages.

The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Beefheart: Mon, 9:45pm
Weird Wednesday: Caged Women: Wed, 12mid
High for the Holidays: Deep Blue: Fri, 9:45pm
Herzog: Fitzcarraldo: Tue, 9:45pm
High for the Holidays: Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle: Fri, 7:00pm; Sun, 7:00pm
High for the Holidays: Head: Sun, 9:45pm
The Jerk: Tue, 7:00pm; Thu (1/5), 7:00pm
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash DX (Vol. 1): Mon, 7:00pm
Super Mecha Kucha Happy Fun Monkey Bash (Vol. 4): Thu (1/5), 9:45pm

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-8135.

**The Family Stone:* Fri, 1:35, 4:15, 7:30, 10:10; Sat, 1:35, 4:15, 7:30; Sun-Thu (1/5), 1:35, 4:15, 7:30, 10:10

**Memoirs of a Geisha:* Fri, 11:45am, 3:20, 7:05, 10:30pm; Sat, 11:45am, 3:20, 7:05pm; Sun-Thu (1/5), 11:45am, 3:20, 7:05, 10:30pm

**The Producers:* Fri, 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20; Sat, 12:30, 3:45, 7:10; Sun-Thu (1/5), 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20

**The Ringer:* Fri, 1:15, 4:00, 7:25, 10:05; Sat, 1:15, 4:00, 7:25; Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 7:25, 10:05; Mon, 1:15, 4:00; Tue, 1:15, 4:00, 7:25, 10:05; Wed, 1:15, 4:00; Thu (1/5), 1:15, 4:00, 7:25, 10:05

Rollergirls Premiere Party: Mon, 9:00pm

**Rumor Has It:* Fri, 1:10, 3:55, 7:15, 10:00; Sat, 1:10, 3:55, 7:15; Sun-Thu (1/5), 1:10, 3:55, 7:15, 10:00

Syriana: Fri, 12:25, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15; Sat, 12:25, 3:40, 7:00; Sun-Thu (1/5), 12:25, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15

**Wolf Creek:* Fri, 1:20, 4:05, 7:35, 10:25; Sat, 1:20, 4:05, 7:35; Sun-Thu (1/5), 1:20, 4:05, 7:35, 10:25

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.

Be Here to Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt: Fri-Tue, 7:15pm; Thu (1/5), 7:15pm

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Fri, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:40; Sun-Thu (1/5), 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:40

Fun With Dick and Jane: Fri, 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50; Sat, 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:30; Sun-Thu (1/5), 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 11:50am, 3:20pm

King Kong: Fri, 11:00am, 3:00, 7:05, 9:55pm; Sun-Thu (1/5), 11:00am, 3:00, 7:05, 9:55pm

**Rumor Has It:* Fri, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:35, 10:00pm; Sun-Thu (1/5), 11:45am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:35, 10:00pm

Sarah Silverman: Jesus Is Magic: Fri, 10:50pm; Sun-Thu (1/5), 10:50pm

Walk the Line: Fri, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10; Sat, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00; Sun-Mon, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10; Tue, 12:30, 3:45, 10:10; Wed-Thu (1/5), 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old. AFS events are all ages.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Fri, 12:25, 3:45, 7:05, 10:10; Sat, 12:25, 3:45, 7:05; Sun-Thu (1/5), 12:25, 3:45, 7:05, 10:10

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 12:00pm

King Kong: Fri, 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00, 9:50pm; Sat, 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00pm; Sun-Thu (1/5), 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00, 9:50pm

The Ringer: Fri, 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:40; Sat, 1:40, 4:25, 7:15; Sun-Thu (1/5), 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:40

Walk the Line: Fri, 3:40, 7:10, 10:00; Sat, 3:40, 7:10; Sun-Tue, 3:40, 7:10, 10:00; Wed, 3:40pm; Thu (1/5), 3:40, 7:10, 10:00

ARBOR CINEMA® @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.

Brokeback Mountain: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:40, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:15am, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:40, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:30, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 11:55am, 12:45, 1:15, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:40, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:30, 10:00pm

Good Night, and Good Luck: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:05

Memoirs of a Geisha: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 11:45am, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40pm

Pride & Prejudice: 12:15, 3:15, 6:50, 9:50

The Producers: 12:00, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20

BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK) Highway 360 and Walsh Tarlton, 306-1688. Discounts daily before 6pm.

**Brokeback Mountain:* Fri-Mon, 10:30am, 1:35, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 1:35, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45

Chicken Little: Fri-Mon, 12:10, 2:25, 4:35; Tue-Thu (1/5), 2:25, 4:35

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 2:50pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 2:50pm

King Kong: Fri-Mon, 10:30am, 11:30, 12:30, 2:30, 3:35, 4:30, 6:25, 7:20, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10pm; Tue, 2:30, 3:35, 4:30, 6:25, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10; Wed-Thu (1/5), 2:30, 3:35, 4:30, 6:25, 7:20, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10

**Memoirs of a Geisha:* Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 2:45, 7:00, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 2:45, 7:00, 10:20

**Munich:* Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 3:10, 6:45, 10:25pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 3:10, 6:45, 10:25

Pride & Prejudice: Fri-Mon, 10:45am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30

**The Ringer:* Fri-Mon, 11:45am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55

Walk the Line: 7:10, 10:15

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190. Matinee discounts before 6pm.

Cheaper by the Dozen 2: 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:35, 3:05, 4:10, 4:50, 5:25, 6:30, 7:35, 8:10, 9:00, 10:05

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: 12:30, 2:05, 3:30, 5:15, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45

**The Family Stone:* 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:15, 7:55, 9:40, 10:20

Fun With Dick and Jane: 12:15, 1:00, 2:30, 3:10, 4:45, 5:45, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:15

Good Night, and Good Luck: 10:30pm

The Producers: 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05

Rumor Has It: 12:25, 1:00, 2:40, 3:20, 4:55, 5:35, 7:10, 7:50, 9:30, 10:10

Syriana: 1:45, 4:40, 7:25, 10:15

Wolf Creek: 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25

Yours, Mine & Ours: 12:05, 2:15, 4:30

DOBIE THEATRE LANDMARK 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.

Capote: Fri-Mon, 1:00, 7:00; Tue-Thu (1/5), 7:00pm

Good Night, and Good Luck: Fri, 4:10, 9:50; Sat, 4:10pm; Sun-Mon, 4:10, 9:50; Tue-Thu (1/5), 9:50pm

The Keeper: The Legend of Omar Khayyam: Fri, 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:40; Sat, 1:30, 4:00, 7:10; Sun-Mon, 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:40; Tue-Thu (1/5), 7:10, 9:40

The Squid and the Whale: Fri, 1:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:20; Sat, 1:10, 4:30, 7:30; Sun-Mon, 1:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:20; Tue-Thu (1/5), 7:30, 9:20

Ushpizin: Fri, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30; Sat, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20; Sun-Mon, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30; Tue-Thu (1/5), 7:20, 9:30

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**Cheaper by the Dozen 2:* Fri, 10:15am, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:15, 9:25, 11:35pm; Sat-Thu (1/5), 10:15am, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:15, 9:25pm

**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (in DLP digital): 10:00am, 10:30, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 10:00, 10:30pm

**The Family Stone:* Fri, 10:05am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55, 12:20am; Sat-Thu (1/5), 10:05am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55pm

**Fun With Dick and Jane:* Fri, 10:10am, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10pm; Sat-Thu (1/5), 10:10am, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10pm

**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire:* 1:35, 7:05

King Kong: Fri, 11:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:35, 11:45pm; Sat-Thu (1/5), 11:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:35pm

**The Ringer:* Fri, 10:25am, 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:25, 9:35, 11:45pm; Sat-Thu (1/5), 10:25am, 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:25, 9:35pm

**Rumor Has It:* Fri, 10:15am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35, 11:50pm; Sat-Thu (1/5), 10:15am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35pm

Syriana: 11:00am, 4:35, 10:10pm

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.

**Cheaper by the Dozen 2:* 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55

**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe:* 12:00, 12:20, 12:50, 3:30, 4:00, 4:40, 6:35, 7:05, 7:35, 9:40, 10:10

The Family Stone: Fri-Mon, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30; Tue, 12:20, 5:20, 7:50; Wed, 2:50, 5:20, 10:30; Thu (1/5), 12:20, 5:20, 7:50

The Family Stone (open captioned): Tue, 2:50, 10:30; Wed, 12:20, 7:50; Thu (1/5), 2:50, 10:30

Fun With Dick and Jane: 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 12:40, 4:05, 9:50

**King Kong:* Fri, 12:30, 1:30, 4:25, 4:55, 5:25, 8:20, 8:50, 9:20; Sat, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 4:25, 5:25, 8:20, 8:50, 9:20; Sun, 12:30, 1:30, 4:25, 4:55, 5:25, 8:20, 8:50, 9:20; Mon, 12:30, 1:30, 4:25, 4:55, 8:20; Tue-Thu (1/5), 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 4:25, 4:55, 5:25, 8:20, 8:50, 9:20

King Kong (open captioned): Fri, 1:00pm; Sat, 4:55pm; Sun, 1:00pm; Mon, 1:00, 8:50

Munich: 12:45, 4:20, 9:45

The Ringer: 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 10:25

**Rumor Has It:* 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20, 10:20

Syriana: 12:25, 3:15, 7:15, 10:05

Walk the Line: 12:35, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15

Wedding Crashers Special Event: Mon, 8:00pm

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.

Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon 3-D: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 2:00, 6:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 10:00am, 2:00, 6:00pm

The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00pm

Texas: The Big Picture: 1:00, 5:00

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.

Cheaper by the Dozen 2: Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 11:50, 12:30, 2:20, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 6:50, 7:50, 9:15, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 12:10, 12:40, 2:10, 3:10, 4:15, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:15, 10:20

**Fun With Dick and Jane:* Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 11:50am, 12:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 2:40, 6:40, 10:15pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 12:30, 3:50, 7:20

King Kong: Fri-Mon, 10:45am, 12:00, 2:50, 4:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 11:55am, 2:50, 4:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30pm

Yours, Mine & Ours: Fri-Mon, 11:40am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10

METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.

Aeon Flux: 7:35, 10:20

Chicken Little: 11:15am, 2:15, 4:50pm

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 11:30am, 12:20, 3:15, 4:15, 7:15, 8:10, 10:45pm

King Kong: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:00, 8:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30pm

Memoirs of a Geisha: 11:45am, 12:10, 3:25, 4:40, 6:45, 8:15, 10:05pm

Munich: Fri-Mon, 10:45am, 2:25, 6:15, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (1/5), 2:25, 6:10, 9:50

The Ringer: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

Walk the Line: Fri-Sun, 12:40, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40; Mon, 12:40, 4:20; Tue, 12:40, 4:20, 10:40; Wed-Thu (1/5), 12:40, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40

Wedding Crashers Special Event: Mon, 8:00pm

Wolf Creek: 11:35am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:45pm

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Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:00, 4:15pm; Wed-Thu (1/5), 10:30am, 1:00pm

A History of Violence: Fri-Sat, 6:00, 8:30; Wed-Thu (1/5), 3:15, 5:15

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**Cheaper by the Dozen 2:* Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50pm; Mon-Tue, 10:10am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30pm; Wed-Thu (1/5), 2:45, 5:00, 7:30

**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe:* Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15pm; Mon-Tue, 10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10pm; Wed-Thu (1/5), 1:00, 4:00, 7:10

The Family Stone: Fri, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Tue, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20pm; Wed-Thu (1/5), 1:40, 4:20, 7:20

**Fun With Dick and Jane:* Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Tue, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00pm; Wed-Thu (1/5), 2:30, 4:40, 7:00

**King Kong:* Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 11:45, 2:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Tue, 10:30am, 11:45, 2:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:50pm; Wed-Thu (1/5), 2:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:50

**Memoirs of a Geisha:* Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00; Mon-Tue, 12:00, 3:30, 6:45; Wed-Thu (1/5), 3:30, 6:45

**Rumor Has It:* Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:40, 10:10pm; Mon-Tue, 11:00am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:40pm; Wed-Thu (1/5), 1:20, 4:10, 7:40

TINSELTOWN NORTH North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540.

Brokeback Mountain: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40

**Cheaper by the Dozen 2:* Fri-Sun, 9:05am, 11:15, 11:45, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 11:45am, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:35pm

Chicken Little: Fri-Sun, 9:15am; Mon-Thu (1/5), 12:00pm

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Fri-Sun, 9:00am, 9:30, 11:30, 12:20, 12:50, 3:00, 3:40, 4:10, 6:15, 7:00, 7:25, 10:20, 10:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 12:20, 12:50, 3:00, 3:40, 4:10, 6:15, 7:00, 7:25, 10:20, 10:50

The Family Stone: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

**Fun With Dick and Jane:* Fri-Sun, 9:20am, 9:50, 12:00, 12:30, 2:30, 2:55, 5:00, 5:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 12:00, 12:30, 2:30, 2:55, 5:00, 5:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30

**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire:* 11:40am, 3:20pm

King Kong: Fri-Sun, 9:00am, 10:00, 11:55, 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 8:00, 9:00, 9:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 11:55am, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 8:00, 9:00, 9:30, 10:05pm

**Memoirs of a Geisha:* 12:10, 3:35, 7:00, 10:25

Munich: Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 3:25, 7:05, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 11:40am, 3:25, 7:05, 10:35pm

**The Producers:* Fri-Sun, 9:25am, 12:40, 3:55, 7:10, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 12:40, 3:55, 7:10, 10:30

**The Ringer:* Fri-Sun, 9:10am, 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/5), 11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10pm

**Rumor Has It:* Fri-Sun, 9:05am, 11:15, 11:45, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (1

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe



impartiality, slides into complicity, takes a hard-right turn into ruthlessness, and ends, finally, near catatonia as the killers' execution date looms. But the film doesn't linger in these states long enough. The fault does not lie with Hoffman (who doesn't so much act out Capote's distinctive mannerisms and high-pitched lisp as channel them); his performance is undeniably great. Everything else – solid, satisfying though it may be – falls short of that greatness. (10/28/2005) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Dobie

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

D: Adam Shankman; with Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt, Eugene Levy, Piper Perabo, Carmen Electra, Eugene Levy, Hilary Duff, Tom Welling, Alyson Stoner. (PG, 100 min.)

It's the snobs vs. the slob! And this holiday's no picnic! Choreographer-turned-director Shankman (Martin-starrer *Bringing Down the House*) takes the wheel of this unasked-for sequel, which fuses the original concept with the well-worn formula of the

family-vacation romp (think *Summer Rental* and *The Great Outdoors*). The filmmakers stop short of actually exhuming John Candy, but they're otherwise shameless. When Tom Baker (Martin) corrals his brood of 12 for old-fashioned bonding up at the lake, the gang promptly runs afoul of Jimmy Murtaugh (Levy, the perennial B-comedy go-to guy), a corporate blowhard who owns the surrounding property with his blow-up trophy wife (Electra, who

gamely makes sport of herself). Hunt is marvelous and down-to-earth, but the rest of the movie is as funny as mildew, unless you really like watching Martin dance like a dork and get socked in the scrotum, or you really need to see Electra getting humped by a dog. (12/23/2005) – Marrit Ingman

★✶ AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

CHICKEN LITTLE

D: Mark Dindal; with the voices of Zach Braff, Garry Marshall, Joan Cusack, Steve Zahn, Don Knotts, Patrick Stewart, Amy Sedaris, Catherine O'Hara. (G, 80 min.)

Boys and girls, here we have an animated family movie about being ugly, being tormented by your peers, being bad at sports, and being neglected by your parents, who are humiliated by your mistakes and idiosyncrasies – and that last part really hurts. It is funny at times, but *Chicken Little* is painful to watch for all ages, despite a voice-talent roster to make the angels weep. The story's all over the place, and the movie rips through its screen time with such frenzied insouciance that the fancy visuals barely register, as if animated family fare can be cranked out on somebody's lunch hour and the real work is in the marketing. The movie isn't interested in whether *Chicken Little* is paranoid or mistaken. It's not even very interested in the psychology of panic. Rather, that little scrapper will have his day, so you can damn well bet the sky is actually falling. (11/11/2005) – Marrit Ingman

★✶ CM Barton Creek, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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Fitzcarraldo

Fitzcarraldo (1982) *D: Werner Herzog; with Klaus Kinski, Claudia Cardinale.* (PG, 158 min.) **Werner Herzog Retrospective.** Throughout January, the Alamo is running a five-film Herzog retrospective. The series opens with one of the German director's best: *Fitzcarraldo*. The film tells the epic story of a man with a vision of building an opera house in the middle of the Peruvian jungle – a dream that also requires hauling a steamship across a mountain with the help of the indigenous locals. The making of the film was so epic in itself that it also became the subject of Les Blank's documentary *Burden of Dreams*. See www.originalalamo.com for more info and reservations. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Tues., 9:45pm; \$6.50 general, \$5 students/seniors/AFS; series pass \$25, \$20 AFS.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

D: Andrew Adamson; with Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Tilda Swinton, James McAvoy, Jim Broadbent; with the voice of Liam Neeson. (PG, 135 min.) This is fusillade No. 1 in Disney's presumed seven-film adaptation of C. S. Lewis' beloved children's tales, in which the four Pevensie children are sent by their mother to the English countryside where they encounter a magical wardrobe that functions as the portal to the miraculous land of Narnia, ruled by the White Witch (Swinton), an evil character intent on enslaving the more sun-dappled areas, held by the wise and noble lion Aslan (voiced by Neeson). There's much to dine on visually, but the fact of the matter – whether you fell in love with the seven *Narnia* books as a child or not – is that \$150 million no longer seem to add up to very convincing special effects, and in a world populated by a hodge-podge of mythic beasts, that's a huge problem. The film's rapid, almost video-game sense of narrative means there's no sense of calm before the gathering storm because the film is *all* storm. (12/09/2005) – Marc Savlov **★★** Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DREAMER: INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

D: John Gatins; with Kurt Russell, Dakota Fanning, Kris Kristofferson, Elisabeth Shue, Luis Guzmán. (PG, 98 min.)

You could call it *Seabiscuit* Jr., but this horsey heartwarmer does something very surprising in spite of its underdog sports-movie formula, its sun-dappled beauty shots of Kentucky thoroughbred farms, and its shameless emotional manipulation of innocent viewers who are jerked through the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat in almost every scene: It manages to be a watchable, even enjoyable movie about and for girls, and in our world of candy-coated sparkly pink crap, that's a rare and commendable thing. *Dreamer* is not – I repeat, is not – challenging or avant-garde cinema; Gatins (in his directorial debut) is the scribe of *Coach Carter* and *Hard Ball*, and he's never met a cliché he didn't like. But the movie has a lot going for it if you look at it right: Hayseed farm kid and broken-down abused animal join forces to fight Big Money assholes and beat them at their own game. (10/21/2005) – Marrit Ingman **★★★** Millennium

THE FAMILY STONE
D: Thomas Bezucha; with Sarah Jessica Parker, Diane Keaton, Claire Danes, Dermot Mulroney, Craig T. Nelson, Rachel McAdams, Luke Wilson, Tyrone Giordano, Brian J. White, Elizabeth Reaser, Paul Schneider, Savannah Stehlin, Elizabeth Reaser. (PG-13, 102 min.) In plotting her next career move, it makes sense that Parker would want to avoid typecasting and steer clear of any flirty, free-spirit types like Carrie Bradshaw. But methinks Parker may have tipped too far in the other direction: No one's going to confuse this latest role – as Meredith, an uptight woman meeting her boyfriend's family for the first time – with the impish Carrie. (As if you didn't know there's a midmovie transformation coming.) The Stones are a fiercely protective, clique-ish clan and none-too-impressed with Meredith, so the subtle sabotage begins. There is some romantic intrigue, as well, but I'm disheartened to report that there's not a lick of chemistry here. The real love affair here is among the Stone family, and there are just too many damn characters, with the best ones taking a backseat to the dullish love quadrangle. (12/16/2005) – Kimberley Jones **★★★** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
D: Dean Parisot; with Jim Carrey, Téa Leoni, Alec Baldwin, Richard Jenkins, Jeff Garlin, Richard Burgi, Angie Harmon. (PG-13, 90 min.) When the first version of this movie appeared in 1977 it meshed perfectly with its times – a little countercultural, a lot class-conscious, and a touch subversive. This remake arrives starring two of today's most prominent comedy top-liners, but the movie is missing any insidious edge. The story, about an upper-middle-class married couple who hit an unexpected downturn when the husband loses his job due to the corporate malfeasance of others, seems perfectly suited to our current era of corporate scandal. Although hewing pretty closely to the original, the remake shares little of the realism and down-to-earth humor that made the original work so well. In both cases, the couples turn to bank robbery to solve their financial crises, but in the new version the crimes are so overblown and badly staged that it's impossible to believe anyone actually gets away with them. Carrey delivers farce when what is needed is satire. (12/23/2005) – Marjorie Baumgarten **★★** Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK
D: George Clooney; with David Strathairn, Robert Downey Jr., Patricia Clarkson, Ray Wise, Frank Langella, Jeff Daniels, George Clooney, Dianne Reeves. (PG, 93 min.) Director and co-screenwriter George Clooney strikes just the right tone in this screen story of TV newsman Edward R. Murrow's courageous battle in the Fifties against the Commie-baiting Sen. Joseph McCarthy. Filmed in lovely black and white that blends smoothly with the historical footage used in the film, *Good Night, and Good Luck* also manages a successful merger between gripping entertainment and understated cautionary tale. The story's implications for the present are there for the taking but are never pounded home. The film does not attempt a rounded portrait or biographical survey



The Polar Express

The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience (2004) *D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolar, Nona Gaye, Eddie Deezen.* (G, 100 min.) Chris van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent screens in all its dimensions. IMAX Theatre (*) Thu. (12/29), 11am, 3, 7pm; Fri.-Sat., 11am, 3, 7, 9pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/5), 11am, 3, 7pm



of this journalist's journalist. Nor does it attempt to lionize the man and his deeds. Instead, the film provides a more general portrait of the times and the fear and paranoia that ran rampant because of the Communist witch hunts and loyalty oaths that were de rigueur in the workplace. As the revered Murrow, Strathairn delivers the performance of his career. (10/21/2005) – Marjorie Baumgarten **★★★★** Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Dobie

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
D: Mike Newell; with Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Robbie Coltrane, Ralph Fiennes, Michael Gambon, Brendan Gleeson, Jason Isaacs, Gary Oldman, Alan Rickman, Maggie Smith. (PG-13, 157 min.)

This fourth *Potter* film is qualitatively different from its cinematic forebears: It doesn't linger on the gothic curlicues of its source material, it moves straightforwardly from place to place, and it emphasizes the emotional development of its characters with dramatic interplay rather than expressionistic, atmospheric gloom. Newell understands that the real thrust of the source material – at least in this particular book – is its characters' passage into adolescence, so he keeps a tight rein on author J.K. Rowling's airy digressions into magical whimsy and takes us right into the heart of the beast: teenage hormones, fallings-out with friends, meeting weird kids from other schools, being hated by your schoolmates, fearing your new teacher yet again, and having to slow dance. Parents should be aware that it's more explicitly violent – hence the PG-13 rating, a first for the series – but really its execution is more adult in a variety of ways, and correctly so. (11/18/2005) – Marrit Ingman **★★★★** Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
D: David Cronenberg; with Viggo Mortensen, Maria Bello, Ed Harris, William Hurt, Ashton Holmes. (R, 96 min.) A *History of Violence* implicitly tackles the old question of nature vs. nurture: What are we born with and what do we acquire from our environment? Cronenberg's movie is less like a horror film in the sense of there being inexplicable creepie-crawlies scurrying about and more like a human drama colored blood red by the intrusion of inexplicable violence. That said, Cronenberg doesn't stint on violent imagery: We see faces blown off with shotguns, pools of blood, violent sex, and other disturbing images with great regularity. These are characters whose violence seems intrinsic – not something

implanted by external forces but a virus that resides within. As mobsters, Harris and Hurt create characters that are so deliciously malevolent and original that their performances alone make the movie worthwhile. *A History of Violence* poses the right question: Are those who don't study history doomed to repeat it? (09/30/2005) – Marjorie Baumgarten **★★★★** Millennium

JARHEAD
D: Sam Mendes; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard, Jamie Fox, Lucas Black, Chris Cooper, Brian Geraghty, Jacob Vargas, Evan Jones. (R, 123 min.) Things we learn from watching *Jarhead*: War is not hell, war is purgatory, with sporadic excursions to the Delta House to Get This Party Started, Motherfucker; girlfriends/wives are not to be trusted, ever; the Iraqi desert looks sublime when Red Adair's not in town; screenwriter William Broyles Jr. is still a pro at manufacturing gripping narratives out of men waiting for something, anything to happen. With *Jarhead*, the director of *American Beauty* has adapted Anthony Swofford's 2003 bestseller about his maddening stint with the Marines during the first Gulf War into an equally maddening movie that portrays Our Boys as either tentative heroes, forever on the cusp but never quite allowed to achieve greatness, or borderline psychotics, preprogrammed for mayhem that never arrives, who then, consciously or unconsciously, turn the savagery of combat inward. Mendes' film sports a wealth of grimly beautiful imagery but lacks any noticeable tone, political or otherwise. War not only dehumanizes, the film seems to be saying, it also infantilizes. (11/04/2005) – Marc Savlov **★★★** Tinseltown South

THE KEEPER: THE LEGEND OF OMAR KHAYYAM
D: Kayvan Mashayekh; with Bruno Lastra, Moritz Bleibtreu, Rade Serbedzija, Vanessa Redgrave, Christopher Simpson, Marie Espinoza, Adam Echahly, Puya Behinaein, C. Thomas Howell. (PG, 95 min.) Houston-based, Iranian-born filmmaker Mashayekh seeks to expose the broader public to the story of the pioneering 11th-century mathematician, astronomer, and poet, and thereby remind Western audiences that there's more to Iran and the Middle East than suicide bombers and hummus. It's a noble undertaking: We owe not only our system of time measurement to the Persian polymath but also much of our science and art. It may sound like a stretch but it's all too probable: If not for Khayyam's breathtaking breakthroughs in cubic equations and algebra, there'd have been no first man on the moon and, minus his equally fine ear for a handsome turn of phrase, no *Rubaiyat*. Mashayekh's film is no epic poem, however. Shot in Uzbekistan, in the same area where Khayyam once lived, and Houston, where the film's ponderous modern storyline takes place, *The Keeper* suffers from scattershot acting and clunky narrative devices that usher the viewer back and forth through time. (12/23/2005) – Marc Savlov **★★** Dobie

KING KONG
D: Peter Jackson; with Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody, Andy Serkis, Thomas Kretschmann, Jamie Bell, Colin Hanks, Evan Parke. (PG-13, 187 min.) Jackson's remake of Merian C. Cooper's 1933 cinematic godhead is more than the sum of its gargantuan parts; it's also a sweet-natured romantic fable, albeit one that packs in carnivorous cockroaches, rampaging brontosaurs, and the ever-Freudian Empire State Building. It's also a corker of an action/monster movie: part RKO serial; part square-jawed, manly romp; and part classic journey into the unknown that recalls and references, surprisingly and splendidly, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Jackson's film is littered with canny references to Cooper's original, but never fails to be its own unique hybrid. Much of

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle (2004) D: Danny Leiner; with John Cho, Kal Penn, Paula Garcés, David Krumholtz, Eddie Kaye Thomas, Neil Patrick Harris, Christopher Meloni. (R, 87 min.) **High for the Holidays.** "Harold & Kumar consistently nails each laugh because it is, quite simply, good, dumb, stoner fun." — Kimberley Jones. Featuring all-you-can-eat miniburgers. (Presented by Rhino Releasing and *High Times*.) (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Friday, Sunday, 7pm.



that uniqueness, which makes the whole familiar story fresh again, comes from advances in special-effects technology. This half-human, half-CGI creation will make you reach for your hanky. The interplay between Watts' melancholy blond and the great ape is almost too real to be believed. It's enough to make you weep not only for the displaced and doomed Kong but for the nearly lost art of cinematic panache. (12/16/2005) — Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

D: Rob Marshall; with Ziyi Zhang, Michelle Yeoh, Gong Li, Ken Watanabe, Kōji Yakusho, Youki Kudoh, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa. (PG-13, 145 min.)

Well, we're not in *Chicago* anymore, but that hasn't stopped Oscar-nominated director Marshall from fashioning another epic spectacle out of two

squabbling women in (a sort-of) show business. Based on the literary bestseller by Arthur Golden, *Memoirs of a Geisha* charts the impressive rise of a fishing-village indigent who, sold into servitude, eventually conquers her chief rival and all of Kyoto as its most powerful geisha, Sayuri (Zhang). The script unpacks a lot of practical information about the geisha lifestyle in a relatively gainly fashion (although the voiceover narration proves largely unnecessary and, on occasion, fairly damaging). Sayuri's circumstance and surroundings are historically fascinating things; her character, not so much. Zhang may just be too much of a firecracker to really sell the milque-toast Sayuri. Far more fun is Asian superstar Gong Li as Sayuri's main competition. The film's other chief pleasure — the spectacular set and costume design — exits with the pesky arrival of World War II into the plot. (12/23/2005) — Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North

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★ PRIDE & PREJUDICE

D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, Matthew Macfadyen, Brenda Blethyn, Donald Sutherland, Rosamund Pike, Jena Malone, Tom Hollander, Judi Dench. (PG, 127 min.)

This fresh adaptation shakes the dust off Jane Austen's novel and gives it a good airing out. The result is a witty and lovesick skirmish of the sexes that exceeds all expectations. The prickly courtship between the headstrong Lizzie Bennett (Knightley) and the sullen Mr. Darcy (Macfadyen) is one of English literature's great romantic entanglements, and this screen version of *Pride & Prejudice* imbues their rocky relationship with a vitality that's missing from most paint-by-number love stories. While the class and gender stratifications in Austen's world may be uncomfortably retro for a contemporary audience, the film makes good use of them in contrast to the more egalitarian interactions between Lizzie and Darcy. Indeed, for all the talk about a woman's need for marital protection and the manner in which the Bennett daughters flutter about every time there's a bachelor afoot, there's a plucky feminism in this movie, embodied by Knightley's eye-opening performance as Lizzie. (11/11/2005) — Steve Davis

★★★★ Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Tinseltown South

THE RINGER

D: Barry W. Blaustein; with Johnny Knoxville, Brian Cox, Katherine Heigl, Camille Chen, Geoffrey Arend, Bill Chott, Leonard Flowers, Edward Barbanell. (PG-13, 94 min.)

It seems to me that a comedy that purports to have a message about treating the intellectually challenged as regular human beings and stars Johnny "Jackass" Knoxville is about as disingenuous as a comedy that urges us to see past a person's body size to appreciate the beauty within and stars Gwyneth Paltrow in a fat suit. Oh wait. That's *Shallow*



The Keeper:
The Legend of
Omar Khayyam

Hal, you say, and the Farrelly brothers already produced that movie a few years ago (with brother Bobby also directing)? And now they're back producing *The Ringer*, which happened to be filmed in the Austin/San Marcos area? This film takes a gauche premise — an average Joe enters the Special Olympics as a ringer, confident he will win big money — and adds some comeuppance, romantic intrigue, and inspi-

ration lessons. The result is an uneven comedy, whose occasionally hilarious lines of dialogue don't fully compensate for its long interludes of predictability. (12/23/2005) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

SARAH SILVERMAN: JESUS IS MAGIC

D: Liam Lynch; with Sarah Silverman, Brian Posehn, Bob Odenkirk, Laura Silverman. (NR, 72 min.)

Silverman says the most outrageous things — dirty, profane, solipsistic, and offensive — but she gets away with it again and again because her delivery is so sly. And with topics such as rape, 9/11, the Holocaust, and AIDS as part of her recurring repertoire, she had best have a deft delivery in order to escape the theatre without getting mugged. *Jesus Is Magic*, however, is a muddle that combines onstage performance with fantasy song sequences and little reality vignettes at the opening and close of the film. Director Lynch helped compose the tunes, but they are as off-key as his direction. And the transitions from performance to song and to reality are strained and awkward. Rather than creating something that might help launch Silverman into greater notoriety, Lynch has done the comic a disservice and helped mold something that's really for the fans only. (12/09/2005) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

★ THE SQUID AND THE WHALE

D: Noah Baumbach; with Jeff Daniels, Laura Linney, Jesse Eisenberg, Owen Kline, Halley Feiffer, William Baldwin, David Bengier. (R, 80 min.)

The opening line lays it all out on the table: "It's Mom and me versus you and Dad." Young Frank (Kline) is merely delineating sides for a family game of tennis, but when that family — the Berkman of Park Slope, Brooklyn, circa 1986 — soon after dissolves in divorce, the opposing camps are pretty neatly summarized the same. Fifteen-year-old Walt (Eisenberg) sides with their father, Bernard (Daniels), a once-famous author whose reputation is in freefall. Frank is less obvious about it, but

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The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Beefheart

The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Beefheart

(1997) Narrated by John Peel. (NR, 51 min.) Don Van Vliet, aka Captain Beefheart, is spotlighted in this BBC documentary that recounts his childhood in the Mojave desert, his deep friendship with Frank Zappa, his discovery of the old blues masters, and the adoption of his stage name, and includes performance and rehearsal footage and samples from his art shows. The film also gets a boost from the narration by John Peel and interviews with Simpsons creator and Beefheart aficionado Matt Groening and onetime Magic Band guitarist Ry Cooder, among others. Preceded by other Beefheart gems, including 1974 French television performances and Anton Corbin's 1994 short documentary on the reclusive musician, which includes testimony by David Lynch. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Monday, 9:45pm; \$1.



his heart is with his mother, Joan (Linney), whose own writing career is just taking off. There are no heroes here. Bernard is a pompous poseur; Joan, an unapologetic philanderer. Walt's a mini-Bernard in the making, and Frank is utterly neglected. The Berkman's are all comical figures, but Baumbach never denies them their humanity. This is humor served not with a smirk but with a helpless shrug. (11/04/2005) — Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Dobie

SYRIANA

D: Stephen Gaghan; with George Clooney, Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright, Christopher Plummer, Chris Cooper, William Hurt, Alexander Siddig, Amanda Peet, Tim Blake Nelson, Mazhar Munir, Jamey Sheridan, Peter Gerety, Robert Foxworth. (R, 128 min.)

Like the saying about the butterfly flapping its wings on one side of the world and affecting currents on the other, *Syriana* shows how the multitaclad quest to control oil supplies in one part of the world can affect (both intentionally and inadvertently) people, lives, and decisions in another. *Syriana* is a challenging and uncompromising movie. Like writer-director Gaghan's Oscar-winning adapted screenplay for *Traffic*, *Syriana* is a complexly structured narrative that follows several different characters and storylines that only begin to cohere into one larger story as the movie draws toward its climax. *Syriana* is more diffusely focused than *Traffic*, however. You'll probably never feel completely clear about the activities of and relationships among all the characters, but it's exactly this tangle that gives *Syriana* a true-to-life feel. There's a lot to absorb here, but it's refreshing to be in the midst of a movie that regards its audience as up to the task. (12/09/2005) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

USHPIZIN

D: Giddi Dar; with Shuli Rand, Michal Bat-Sheva Rand, Shaul Mizrahi, Ilan Gannai, Avraham Abutboul. (PG, 90 min., subtitled)

The Israeli comedy *Ushpizin* is a wholly original movie, the first film (so far as I know) set and filmed entirely within the insular realm of Jerusalem's ultra-orthodox Hasidim. Set during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, a thanksgiving for the autumn harvest that is symbolically commemorated by observant Jews by moving out of their homes and into temporary shelters known as sukkahs — a financial problem for poor-but-penitent Rebbe Moshe (Rand) and his wife, Mali (Rand's

real-life spouse, Michal). Clearly, a miracle is called for — and delivered after much fervent prayer from both husband and wife. Yet woe of a certain sort follows quickly on the heels of their luck in the form of two gregarious prison escapees. For all its obvious religious overtones, *Ushpizin*'s basic setup is as secular as they come. The shekel-less young couple might as well be in Crown Heights as Old Jerusalem — or Sheboygan, for that matter. (12/23/2005) — Marc Savlov
★★★★ Dobie

WALK THE LINE

D: James Mangold; with Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Patrick, Shelby Lynne, Ginnifer Goodwin, Larry Bagby, Tyler Hilton, Dallas Roberts, Johnathan Rice, Shooter Jennings, Waylon Payne. (PG-13, 136 min.)

Musician Johnny Cash circumvented the rowdy mantrap of diminishing rock & roll returns by giving up his one true love — little white speed pills — for his other one true love — young Memphis country and gospel sasspot June Carter (Witherspoon), a powder keg of padlocked passions whose sparks ignited for her music, friends, family, and also, to her dismay, this black-clad baritone with the quiver in his voice and the arrow in his heart. Joaquin Phoenix as Cash is the next best thing to having been there, I suppose, and although the sinner man's early successes and echoing woes look chaotically entertaining indeed in that hellishly dashing sort of way young doomsters can exude, the wreckage he leaves in his wake is quick and obvious and banal. Only the steady output of his lonely locomotive guitar and plaintive, almost homely, voice made this bad Cash worth anybody's jukebox dime. (11/18/2005) — Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan

YOURS, MINE & OURS

D: Raja Gosnell; with Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo, Linda Hunt, Sean Faris, Katija Pevec, Danielle Panabaker, Rip Torn, Jerry O'Connell. (PG, 88 min.)

If you can't wait to see *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*, you can currently go see this new supersized family comedy, itself a remake of the 1968 Henry Fonda and Lucille Ball original. It won't spoil your appetite or even leave much of an impression, as tame and uninspired as it is. On the other hand, it won't offend any sensibilities or desecrate the memory of the original — and will definitely make *The Brady Bunch* look like an example of prudent family planning. Quaid endures more than his share of comic falls and scrapes, while the kids all unite in various

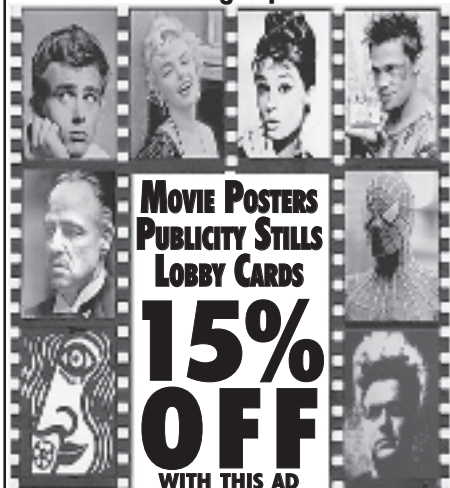
schemes to break their parents apart. Too many of the seams show in *Yours, Mine & Ours* and interrupt any potential flights of comic fancy. Of the 18 child performers, only Pevec and Panabaker as rival step-sisters show any real gift for acting. (11/25/2005) — Marjorie Baumgarten
★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Lakeline, Tinseltown South

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The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

THURSDAY 29

This Land Is Your Land (2004) D: Lori Cheatele and Daisy Wright. (NR, 87 min.) **Third Coast Activists.** This funny and moving documentary looks at the impact of corporations on American society, culture, and democracy, and some of the ways in which individuals have fought back on the local level. Among the interviewees in this 2004 SXSW Film entry are Naomi Klein, Jim Hightower, and Dottie Dean, the owner of the Austin Motel. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm; \$6.50 general; \$5 students/seniors.

Up in Smoke (1978) D: Lou Adler; with Cheech Marin, Tommy Chong, Stacy Keach, Tom Skerritt, Edie Adams, Strother Martin. (R, 86 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Cheech & Chong's first movie is still their best. The duo wrote the genial script about the never-ending search for great pot, and a good supporting cast co-stars. (Presented by Rhino Releasing and High Times). (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

FRIDAY 30

Deep Blue (2003) D: Andy Byatt and Alastair Fothergill; narrated by Pierce Brosnan. (G, 83 min.) **High for the Holidays.** A feature-length re-assembly of footage gathered for the directors' BBC show *The Blue Planet*, *Deep Blue* is the *Microcosmos* and *Winged Migration* of the underwater world. A lush nature documentary, the film is filled with stunning images, swooping camerawork, and an expansive score by George Fenton. Come prepared to spend the night with your nose pressed up against a giant aquarium. (Presented by Rhino Releasing and High Times). (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle (2004) See p.77.

SPACES

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) D: Jeremiah S. Chechik; with Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Diane Ladd, John Randolph, E.G. Marshall, Doris Roberts. (PG-13, 97 min.) Third in the *Vacation* series is reliably amusing, with script by John Hughes and a fabulous cast. @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1206 Parkway), 8pm; free.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1608 Barton Springs Rd.), 8pm; free. (See above)

SUNDAY 01

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle (2004) See p.77.

Head (1968) D: Bob Rafelson; with Peter Tork, Davy Jones, Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, Annette Funicello, Timothy Carey. (G, 86 min.) **High for the Holidays.** The Monkees overstepped in a most fascinating manner during their jump from the little screen

to the big. Bob Rafelson and co-conceptualist Jack Nicholson did for the Monkees what Richard Lester did for the Beatles with *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help!*: create a whacked-out, aimless universe that constantly riffs on popular culture. Not a hit at the time with the regular Monkees fans, the rarely screened *Head* has since grown in critical stature. It's also the film Rafelson and Nicholson made before their zeitgeist-defining film *Five Easy Pieces*. With music and lots of cameos. (Presented by Rhino Releasing and High Times). (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

MONDAY 02

Rollergirls Premiere Party Live premiere of the new A&E reality show about Austin's own Rollergirls, who participate in a Q&A after the show. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 9pm; free.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash DX (Vol. 1) D: Various. (NR) The Alamo has teamed up with local Japanese pop-culture enthusiast and architect Tony Salvaggio to present the best of bizarre Japanese video oddities. The program includes strange, surreal animation, A-list American celebrities pimping themselves out on Japanese commercials, cruel and inhumane game shows, bawdy situation comedies, unexpected nudity, extreme pro wrestling, bizarre anti-flatulence products, nonsensical English phrases, supreme goofiness, and more. Volume 1 highlights include a really creepy Japanese

night, following the show from 9-11pm. For details about submitting a short film to be considered, check their Web site. www.austinformovieshow.com.

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Offscreen

Reel Women International Film Festival RW's second international festival will be held March 23-26, in Los Angeles, Calif., and they're accepting submissions now. Categories include: features, documentaries, shorts, animation, and student films, all of which must be directed by women or written and produced by women. Check their Web site for more information. www.rwiff.com.

The Austin Movie Show: Film Tournament 2.0 will keep the popular show keeping on, yea verily, even though the Austin Music Network is no more. Not only will the Austin Movie Show be shown 6-8pm on Sunday nights, but their Film Tournament 2.0 will start up the same

Ronald McDonald, multi-breasted crime fighters, Inframan English lessons, offensive African-American stereotypes, a Power Ranger theme park, and more. See www.originalalamo.com for more info and reservations. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Beefheart (1997) See p.79.

Wedding Crashers Special Event (2005) D: David Dobkin; with Owen Wilson, Vince Vaughan, Rachel McAdams, Isla Fisher, Christopher Walken, Jane Seymour. (R, 150 min.) In this preamble to the comedy's DVD release, this one-night-only big-screen event includes an extra half-hour of material: the featurette “The Rules of Wedding Crashing” and deleted scenes from the popular comedy. @Gateway, 8pm. @Metropolitan, 8pm.

SPACES

Twin Peaks and Carnivale An episode of *Twin Peaks* screens at 7pm, followed by an episode of *Carnivale* at 8pm. Popcorn provided. @Beerland, 7pm; free, 21 and over.

TUESDAY 03

Fitzcarraldo (1982) See p.76.

The Jerk (1979) D: Carl Reiner; with Steve Martin, Bernadette Peters, Catlin Adams, Mabel King, Bill Macy, Jackie Mason. (R, 94 min.) Once upon a time, *The Jerk* reigned supreme in the movies-about-really-stupid-men department. Martin's dumb-guy shtick here is just hilarious. Free pizza in a cup. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

SPACES

Documentaries and Short Films Screenings on the back patio every Tuesday. @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1206 Parkway), 8pm; free.

WEDNESDAY 04

Caged Women (1982) D: Bruno Mattei; with Laura Gemser, Gabriele Tinti, Maria Romano. (R, 90 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** Emmanuelle – she of the exotically located, soft-core porn films – here goes undercover in an Italian prison to expose the corruption and brutality taking place in the institution. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

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SPACES

Broken Flowers (2005) *D: Jim Jarmusch; with Bill Murray, Jeffrey Wright, Sharon Stone, Frances Conroy, Jessica Lange, Tilda Swinton, Julie Delpy, Chloë Sevigny, Mark Webber, Christopher McDonald. (R, 106 min.)* Jim Jarmusch and Bill Murray meditate on middle age and the world of possibilities. Free popcorn and doughnuts. (*) @Beerland, 7pm; free, 21 and up.

THURSDAY 06

Super Mecha Kucha Happy Fun Monkey Bash (Vol. 4) The Alamo teams up with local Japanese-pop-culture enthusiast and archivist Tony Salvaggio to present the best of bizarre Japanese video oddities. Volume 4 highlights include scenes from a variety show that laughs at little children hurting themselves, singing toilet commercials, tempura fried breasts, dangerous game shows, psychedelic superheroes, and loads more. Monkey Bash co-creator and manga writer Salvaggio will appear at this show to present his newest Tokyopop manga, *Psy-comm*. Copies of the book will be available for purchasing and signing! See www.originalalalamo.com for more info and reservations. (*) @Alamo Drafrhouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

The Jerk (1979) @Alamo Drafrhouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Tue., 01/03)

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices and showtimes call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see www.thestoryoftexas.com.

Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon 3-D (2005) *D: Mark Cowen; narrated by Tom Hanks. (NR, 40 min.)* What could be better than the illusion of walking on the moon? Tom Hanks co-produced and narrates this exploration of the lunar surface drawn from NASA footage and CGI images. Many famous actors read personal reminiscences of the 12 men who have walked on the moon. Thu. (12/29)-Sat., 10am, 2, 6pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/5), 10am, 2, 6pm

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. The film won't do anything to bust the tried-and-true stereotypes about native Texans or the state's history, but here in Texas we tend to like it that way. Thu. (12/29)-Thu. (1/5), 1, 5, closed Sunday.

The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience (2004) See p.76.

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Dale Watson's Farewell Party

CONTINENTAL CLUB, FRIDAY 30

The gentleman who almost single-handedly rounded up the trad country revival in Austin is moving to Baltimore, and we're the poorer for it. Dale Watson, whose rich baritone is as pure as his pickin', has also been a magnet attracting great talent to Austin much like that other great walkin' talkin' Chamber of Commerce, the late Doug Sahm. With equally smokin' Jon Dee Graham opening at 10pm, Watson's midnight appearance will pack 'em to the walls. Get there early to stake out a good spot from which you can shout out requests one more time.

— Margaret Moser

The Undoing of David Wright, Attractive & Popular

BEERLAND, SUNDAY 1

Once you've shaken off the first hangover of 2006, it's time to get shaken up again with Denton trio the Undoing of David Wright. Combining fake blood and gloomy synth with an androgynous love for Nick Cave and his spawn, the Undoing are doing what they do best, as heard on the theatrical undulations of their debut, *We Dig With Fingers Crossed*. And yes, they really are as macabre as the title sounds. Lafayette, La.'s Attractive & Popular get four on the floor while locals Cry Blood Apache and San Antonio's Skullening turn things a beautiful shade of screaming neon.

— Audra Schroeder



The Undoing of David Wright

New Year's Eve

SATURDAY 31

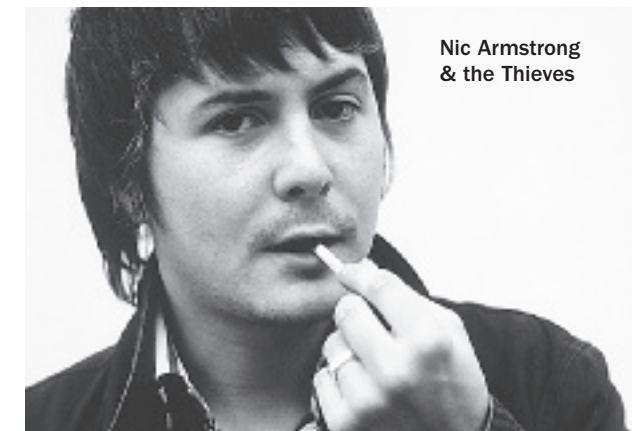
You might want to forget all those old acquaintances this year, but before you set the black-eyed peas to soak, share one more glass of cheap champagne with all your local friends and neighbors. Starting with the older school of thought, **Joe Ely's Electric Band** buzzes at La Zona Rosa featuring Jimmie Pettit, David Grisson, and Davis McLarty, with special guests **Reckless Kelly** and **Patricia Vonne** opening. The **LeRoi Brothers** set the Continental Club afire with **Toni Price** and **Eve Monsees** warming the embers, while **Grupo Fantasma** sets asses in motion with a contemporary Latin groove at the Parish along with **Maneja Beto**. **Pong** envisions the future at Room 710 with dance beats and Casio freaks; cousins **Cat Scientist** and **Hug** support. Across the street, **Honky** puts the Southern into Red Eyed Fly with partners in rock **Dixie Witch**. Brits **Nic Armstrong & the Thieves** continue their Texas residency with a Club de Ville garage party including de Ville bartender Jacob Schulze's **Moonlight Towers**. Farther north, **Scott Biram's Champagne Chicken Roast** makes a pit stop at the Hole in the Wall with **Jane Bond**, and **Chili Cold Blood's** black & blues runs home to the Poodle Dog Lounge with **Lucas Hudgins & the 1st Cousins**, the **Moonhangers**, and hopefully an appearance by **Walter Daniels** and **Black Joe Lewis**. Not to leave the Southside out: Jason McMaster's **Broken Teeth** tear up Trophy's; **Tia Carrera**, **ST 37**, and **Rubble** jam out at Ruta Maya; and never to be outdone, **White Ghost Shivers** and **Small Stars** throw a circus freakshow at the Blue Genie warehouse. Now that's goin' out with a bang. Might I suggest Alka Seltzer Morning Relief? See "New Year's Listings," p.67, for even more.

— Darcie Stevens



AUBREY EDWARDS

Chili Cold Blood



Nic Armstrong & the Thieves

Arthur Brown SAXON PUB, TUESDAY 3

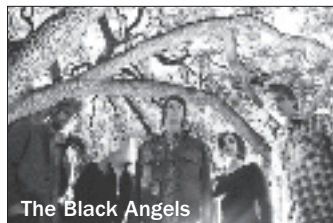
Arthur Brown was a pyromaniac before pyromania was cool. "He'd set fire to his fuckin' head," said George Clinton, describing Brown's Sixties stage show, which didn't just influence Parliament/Funkadelic, but rather everyone from Hendrix and the Red Hot Chili Peppers to David Bowie and the Darkness. Four decades later, the British progressive rock legend is still the undisputed "God of Hellfire." It's been close to a decade since he's lived in Austin, but this visit leaves time for at least one live appearance, and given the Saxon's low ceilings, fire marshals might actually be a welcome presence.

— Andy Langer

Free Week, Part 1!

EMO'S, TUESDAY 3-THURSDAY 5

Few New Year's resolutions are as practical as vowing to quit smoking, to start exercising, or to stop spying on your neighbors. Before you get on the straight and narrow, why not get a little crooked and indulge in a week of unfettered freedom and potential alcohol poisoning? Emo's Free Week serves up hot local-on-local action: Tuesday's lineup features the Eighties-tinged synth pop of **Masonic** (and hopefully their cover of ABBA's "S.O.S"), the strummings of **Til We're Blue** or **Destroy**, members of the beloved Winslow reformed as the **Paper South**, and the sham-bolic good times of the **Shim Shams**. On Wednesday, the skronky maritime rock of the collective **Gorch Fock** slithers up from the ocean floor and tangles with San Antonio's **Boxcar Satan**, a band that loves its Cramps with a side of Beefheart. Emo's own Bill Corsello jostles early Nineties noise rock with **Good Times Crisis Band**, and psych veterans **ST 37** cut down the middle and eviscerate. Thursday gets weird and hazy with the plodding time warp of the **Black Angels**, the euphoric pastiche of the instrumental **My Education**, and the piercing cacophony of **Animals of the Bible** and the **New Glow** outside. Inside, the



The Black Angels

Arm reaches out and grabs your ear Catholic-school style, while **Camp X-Ray** and Houston's **Sinews** rattle the bottles off the bar, and **For Those Who Know** bring down the house lights with a little something we like to call "sex music" (also known as shoegaze). And of course the **Attak (In)Formation** make their yearly appearance on the patio before morphing back into Attack Formation, kind of like a punk rock Transformer. Invest in some Extra Strength Excedrin and swear off cheese fries and body shots next month.

— Audra Schroeder

Klier Channel, Ralph White, Possessed by Paul James

THE PARLOR, WEDNESDAY 4

Time to testify, brothers and sisters. It's time to growl in union. It's time to get shaken down like a klepto at a church bake sale. It's a one-man-band affair, you see. Konrad Wert comes alive as Possessed by Paul James, playing fiddle, guitar, banjo, and broken bottles. Former Bad Liver Ralph White drags a little Southern blues out of the bayou with banjo/fiddle/accordion. And Things That Go Pop guitarist Andy Klier goes solo as the somber folk corporate mega-giant Klier Channel. It will be a glorifying hour of witness.

— Audra Schroeder

Cue, Quien Es Boom!, Jana Hunter, Horse + Donkey

BEERLAND, THURSDAY 5

When it comes to music, sometimes it's all about atmosphere, kids. And what a bill for atmosphere. There's the quiet hammering and elegant melodies of Quien Es Boom! and the ecstatic earth-shattering drone of Horse + Donkey. Recent Austin transplant Jana Hunter's haunting debut, *Blank Unstaring Heirs of Doom*, is absolutely riveting, full of tape hiss and ghostly vocals and bucolic unease that wraps around the noggin like a rubber band. And locals Cue bring back the love with instrumental chamber rock from the dark side of the swoon. Drone is where the heart is.

— Audra Schroeder



AUBREY EDWARDS

Cue

Soundcheck BY DARCIE STEVENS

BREEDLOVE

Momos, Friday 30

Tyrone Vaughan's crew jumped Steamboat, but the rock returns.

THE MOONHANGERS, THE TEXAS SAPPHIRES
Hole in the Wall, Friday 30

Chili Cold Blood's country counterpart thumps traditional strings with the Texas Sapphires.

THE ALICE ROSE

Ruta Maya, Friday 30

Power pop back from the dead.

THE HIGH FLYERS

Continental Club, Monday 2

Taking over Dale Watson's residency, Redd Volkaert, Cindy Cashdollar, and Elana James hit SoCo.



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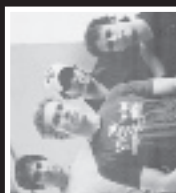
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EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770
ELEMENT, 301 W. Fifth, 480-9888
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-EMOS
END OF AN EAR, 2209 S. First, 462-6008
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586
FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE, 605 Brazos, 478-3473
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 322-9750
THE FOUNDATION, 307 W. Fifth, 472-4256
FOX & HOUND, 401 Guadalupe, 494-1200
FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE, 10903 Pecan Park, 506-8700
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
GALAXY CAFE, 9911 Brodie Ln. #750, 233-6000
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca, 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL, 730-A W. Stassney, 326-4466
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL, 2401 W. Howard, 255-8003
GRUENE HALL, 1601 Hunter, New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GUERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
HABANA CALLE 6, 709 E. Sixth, 443-4252
HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE, 617 Congress, 476-0473
HILLTOP TAVERN, 5996 Hwy. 21, Maxwell, 512/357-6731
HOLE IN THE WALL ROUND ROCK, 119 Main, Round Rock, 512/310-7777
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234
IT'S ITALIAN, 14735 Bratton, 252-1444

JACK'S BACKYARD, 6901 N. I-35, 451-5008
JC'S STEAKHOUSE, 5804 N. I-35, 407-9393
JO'S HOT COFFEE, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
LA CABANA GRILL, 21103 Hwy. 71 W., 264-0916
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290, 459-8729
LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
LONGBRANCH INN, 1133 E. 11th, 472-5477
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399
MAMBO KINGS CLUB, 611 E. Seventh, 845-3918
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MIDNIGHT RODEO, 2201 E. Ben White, 443-2623
MOMOS, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOONRIVER, 2002 N. Pace Bend Rd., Spicewood, 512/264-2064
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
MOTHER'S CAFE, 4215 Duval St., 451-3994
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
MR. NATURAL, 2414-A S. Lamar, 916-9223
MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305
NASTY'S, 606 Maiden, 453-4349
NAT'S PUB, Lakeway Plaza, Lakeway, 512/263-2855
NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133
THE OFFICE LOUNGE, 1207 Leander Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-1137
OILCAN HARRY'S, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823
OLD COULANDANCE HALL, 116 Hoxie, Copeland, 512/856-2226
OSLO, 301 W. Sixth, 480-9433
PAGGI HOUSE, 200 Lee Barton Dr., 499-8835
THE PALLADIUM, 13800 Dragline, 989-7450
PALMER EVENTS CENTER, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020
PARDNERS, 1110 Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/244-1204
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 478-6372
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
THE PEACOCK, 515 Pedernales, 276-8979
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
POODLE DOG LOUNGE, 6507 Burnet Rd., 465-9468
THE PUB, 1826 Mays, Round Rock, 512/246-8007
RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577
RAGGEDY ANNE'S, 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy., 251-9647
RAIN, 217-B W. Fourth, 494-1150
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Research, 335-5115
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
RED'S SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 320-0004
REDRUM, 401 Sabine, 275-6575
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 342-7977
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626
RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK, 2120 N. Mays #100, Round Rock, 512/246-9444
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, 218-0813
ROCKY HILL RANCH SALOON, 578 FM 153 N., Smithville, 512/237-3112
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
ROPER'S NIGHTCLUB, 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy., # 5000, 990-4991
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE, 11800 Lamar, 835-2414
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE, 208-D W. Fourth, 478-7222
SAENGERHALL, 255 Saengerhalle, New Braunfels, 830/625-HALL
SAKÉ ON SIXTH, 621 E. Sixth, 478-8788
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SAO PAULO'S, 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/310-1200
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHOAL CREEK SALOON, 909 N. Lamar, 474-0805
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 601-5 E. Whitestone, Cedar Park, 512/260-2060
SHOOTING STARS COFFEE, 6539 N. Lamar, 377-3334
SKY LOUNGE, 416 Congress, 477-3151
SOUTH FORTY, 629 W. Ben White Blvd., 444-9329
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca, 280-8590
STUBB'S BAR-B-Q, 801 Red River, 480-8341
TAMBALEO, 302 Bowie, 472-3213
TAVERN ON THE GRUENE, 830 Gruene Rd., Gruene, 866/828-3761
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
THE CROSSINGS, 13500 FM 2769, 258-7243
THINGS CELTIC, 1806 W. 35th, 472-2358
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL, 2201 College, 443-4200
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
TROUBADOUR SALOON, 503 E. Sixth, 659-4263
THE VELVET SPADE, 912 Red River, 482-8404
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174
VIVO, 2015 Manor Rd., 482-0300
VUE, 416 Congress, Upstairs, 477-3151
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil, 331-9831
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH, 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

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CHAMPAGNE TOAST, BALLOON DROP FREE ADMISSION, ALL WELCOME.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 **LC UNPLUGGED** 9:30PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30 **RAYVON** 9:30PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 **NYE BASH! DYSFUNKSHUN JUNKSHUN** 9:30PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3 **JAZZ NIGHT KKQ** 9:30PM FREE COVER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 **LATIN WEDNESDAY THE BREW** 9:30PM
FREE SALSA LESSON @ 9PM

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2 CHAMPAGNE TOASTS: IRISH NEW YEAR AT 6PM • USA AT MIDNIGHT
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Central Market

show times:
6:30 - 9pm

Free Live Music on the Patio

Central Park
under the oaks

Westgate
under the moon tower

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30
DEEP EDWARD

latin lounge pop

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31
KACY CROWLEY

soul, pop, rock

SUNDAY JAN 1 12 - 2:30 PM
MARC DEVINE QUARTET

a jazz brunch

FRIDAY JANUARY 6
1001 NIGHTS ORCHESTRA

middle east

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30
EASTSIDE KINGS

Texas blues legends

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31
ROGER WALLACE

classic country

SUNDAY JAN 1 12 - 2:30 PM
RUMBULLION

Paris in the 1930's

SATURDAY JANUARY 7
W.C. CLARK

Texas blues legend

UPCOMING NO. LAMAR SHOWS:

JAN 7 - Renee Woodward
JAN 8 - Floyd Domino
JAN 13 - Seth Walker

Call 512-206-1000 for details
Central Park

40th & N. Lamar
café open 7AM-9 PM Sunday-Thursday
7AM-10PM Friday and Saturday
free music • great food
covered patio • kids playscape

UPCOMING WESTGATE SHOWS:

JAN 9 - Cafe closed for remodeling. Reopens in Spring. T.B.A.

Call 512-899-4300 for details
Westgate

4477 S. Lamar @ Ben White
café open 7AM-9 PM Sunday-Thursday
7AM-10PM Friday and Saturday
free music • great food
covered patio • plenty of parking

club listings

Thu 29

311 CLUB 3 Piece Special, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Sam Davis (1:00), Texas Renegade (3:30)

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Sarah Glynn (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Carley Wolf (12:30)

ANTONE'S Eve Monsees & the Exiles, Gary Clark Jr.

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Boomer Norman

AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)

AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Poetry Karaoke Open Mic (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BACK ROOM Demonio, Bloodhorse, Grey Haven

BARCELONA DJ Tats

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Brennen Leigh (8:00)

BEERLAND Quien 'es Boom!, Azalia Snail, Rachel Goldstar

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL Open Mic w/ Sidney

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

BROWN BAR mr.ripley

CAFE CAFFEINE Frank Meyer

CAFE MUNDI Avenue Elle (5:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Rock en Español w/ Haydn Vitera (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Onion Creek Crawdaddies (6:30), Big Balls, the Diamond Smugglers (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Newsboyz (9:15)

DARWIN'S PUB J.T. Coldfire

THE DETOUR Open Mic w/ David John, Big Steve, Easy Dave (8:30)

THE DIRTY DOG Clay Jeffreys

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle w/ Tammy Sommerville (7:30)

EGO'S Li'l Bit & the Customatics, Rick Broussard's 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Steve Geraci Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Blitzkrieg! w/ DJ Raleigh, DJ Sensoria

END OF AN EAR Azalia Snail (7:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungate (7:00)

FADÓ DJ Gerry (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Monkeytown!

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE David Hamburger, Half Knots (8:00)

THE FOUNDATION Coy West

FOX & HOUND Danny Britt (6:00)

FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE Jazzopolis (7:00)

FRIENDS Pride & Joy

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Will Sexton

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Bobby Flores (9:00)

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Toby Anderson

GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Kris Farrow (7:30), Noltey (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Two Tons of Steel (8:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke

HEADHUNTERS Kevin Dehan, Daddi, Voluntary Mother Earth Band, Hard Knocks & the Heads

HOLE IN THE WALL Dan Montgomery, Ricky Stein (10:00)

BIG BALLS
TEXAS' OWN AC/DC
TRIBUTE BAND!



**THU., DECEMBER 30 AT
THE CONTINENTAL CLUB**

**WITH
DIAMOND
SMUGGLERS**
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Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail clubs@austinchronicle.com.

JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Larry Lange's Lonely Knights (8:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Shibboleth, Old 97's (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE 8 Million Stories (9:00)

MAMBO KINGS CLUB Recon Thursday w/ Loki, Secret Agent, Durhdy, Jungle Jim, B-1, DJ Mattis

MOMOS S.T. James, Rachel Loy, Ryan Desiato (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)

NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Big Jim

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Blues Jam w/ Dwayne Davis (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Jamie

OSLO The Bumps (11:00)

PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL K'Cee

THE PUB Karaoke

RED EYED FLY Devola, Super Heavy Goat Ass

RED FEZ Strangetribe w/ Jeff Strange, DJ Nu-Mark, DJ Manny

RED'S SCOOT INN The Nortons (8:30)

REDRUM House of Id LP Release, Prime Element, Carbon Omega, Vitalis, War Against Sleep

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (6:00), Brannen Temple Quartet (9:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)

roadshows

DECEMBER

THU 29

Azalia Snail, Beerland
Azalia Snail, End of an Ear
Half Knots, Flipnotics Coffeespace

Two Tons of Steel, Gruene Hall

Old 97's, Shibboleth, La Zona Rosa

DJ Nu-Mark, Red Fez

Church Bus, Room 710

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

FRI 30

Vex, Back Room

Knee Pad, Flamingo Cantina
Burden Brothers, Mermaid Purse, Stubb's Bar-B-Q

SAT 31

Nic Armstrong & the Thieves, Club de Ville

JANUARY

SUN 1

Strange Boys, the Undoing of David Wright, Attractive

& Popular, Skullening, Beerland

TUE 3

Arthur Brown, Saxon Pub

WED 4

Boxcar Satan, Emo's
The El Orbits, Flipnotics Coffeespace

THU 5

Sinews, Animals of the Bible, Emo's
DJ Nu-Mark, Red Fez

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LZ LOVE

MON. 1/2 @ 8PM
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WED. 1/4 @ 7:30PM
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THURSDAY DEC 29 • 7PM
CRAIG TOUNGATE

FRIDAY DEC 30 • 10PM
LARRY LANGE'S LONELY KNIGHTS \$5 Cover

TUESDAY JAN 3
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
GENE TAYLOR 8PM

WEDNESDAY JAN 4
COWBOY JOHNSON 6PM

NASTY'S

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NEW YEAR'S EVE ROCK & ROLL BASH
CHAD THOMAS & THE CRAZY KINGS
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
FREE CHAMPAGNE TOAST, HATS & HORNS

Mondays
Hip-Hop with DJ Mel & Jah Mighty

Tuesdays
\$2 Pints & Free Pool

Wednesdays
\$6 Domestic Pitchers,
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Thursdays
\$1.75 Anheuser-Busch Bottles
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Fridays
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Happy Hour M-F • 6-8

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Happy Hour M-F • 6-8

Open Mon-Sat 6pm-2am
Pool Tables • Dart Boards
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Map: N Lamar Blvd, Guadalupe St, 38th Street, 34th Street, 606 Maiden Lane

5...4...3...2...1...Happy 2006!

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE CAFE

Thu 29 The Half Knots ~ David Hamburger 8pm

Fri 30
Plum Tucker
Philip Gibbs 9pm

Happy 2006 Austin!

Sat 31
Bring in the New Year at our New Year's Eve Bash!
Drink Specials and Bands TBA

Sun 1 Mark Ambrose 8pm
Mon 2 The Sick Science Project 8pm
Tues' Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory 8:30pm
Wed 4 El Orbits 7:30pm
thur 5 Andy Keating ~ Bill Davis
fri 6 Bakin' Brownies
sat 7 Mark Jungers Band ~ The Hudson's

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JASON MRAZ
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
With Bob Schneider

ROCK AND ROLL'S FOUNDING FATHER
CHUCK BERRY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

GRAMMY AWARD WINNING
OZOMATLI
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

30TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
DAVID GRISMAN QUINTET
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
With The Greencards

THE 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TOUR
B.B. KING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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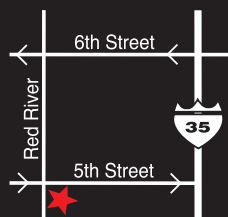
**4420 Maple, Dallas, TX
214-526-5982**



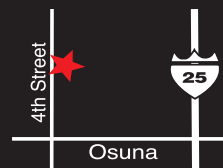
**9515 Skillman, Dallas, TX
214-553-9293**



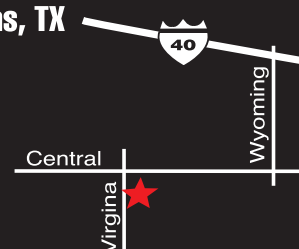
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AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN SONG OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR:

BEST NEW AUSTIN BAND:

Best Performing Bands

ROCK:

PUNK:

METAL:

INDUSTRIAL/GOTH:

DJ:

POP:

JAZZ:

BLUES:

HIP-HOP:

INSTRUMENTAL:

EXPERIMENTAL:

COUNTRY:

BLUEGRASS:

ROOTS ROCK:

FOLK:

LATIN TRADITIONAL:

LATIN CONTEMPORARY:

WORLD MUSIC:

COVER BAND:

KID BAND (majority of members under 18):

NOVELTY:

NONE OF THE ABOVE:

Best Austin Musicians

FEMALE VOCALS:

MALE VOCALS:

ELECTRIC GUITAR:

ACOUSTIC GUITAR:

BASS:

DRUMS:

KEYBOARDS:

HORNS:

STRINGS:

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT:

SONGWRITER:

RECORD PRODUCER (producer name, CD title):

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INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT STORE:

RADIO STATION:

RADIO PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):

RADIO PERSONALITY (show, deejay, station):

BAND WEB SITE (band, URL):

LOCAL MUSIC TV SERIES (local program, local acts):

MUSIC VIDEO/DVD:

CONCERT POSTER (band, club, date, artist):

JOURNALIST/CRITIC/WRITER:

COVER ART (title, band, artist):

CONCERT BY A TOURING BAND (band, venue, date):

Texas Music Hall of Fame Nominations

Is Biscuit in the Hall of Fame? What about Roky and Willie? Previous winners are listed on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll/fame. (The answer is YES.)

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OR FILL IN THE BLANK*:

Mark Andes
John Andrews
Asleep at the Wheel
The Big Boys
Bubble Puppy
Butthole Surfers
Dangerous Toys
Ed Hall
The Fireballs
Kinky Friedman
The Geezinslaws
Blues Boy Hubbard
Ray Wylie Hubbard

Killer Bees
James McMurtry
Ernie Mae Miller
Pariah
Paul Ray & the Cobras
Poison 13
The Reivers
Spoon
Soul Hat
Jesse Taylor
2 Hoots & a Holler
Wild Seeds

Who are these people and why should you vote for them? Visit the poll ballot online at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll for more information!

OTHER NOMINEE*

Required Information

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

AGE

PHONE

ONLY BALLOTS WITH A FULL NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS WILL BE COUNTED!

Please mail to: Music Poll
The Austin Chronicle
PO Box 49066
Austin, TX 78765



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club listings < < FROM THURSDAY

RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke

ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)

ROMEO'S Jacinta (6:30)

ROOM 710 Church Bus, Ron Titter Band, Attic Ted

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE OJ's Jam Session

RUTA MAYA Everything Delicious & Suspicious (9:00)

SAENGERHALLE Django Walker

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D

SHOAL CREEK SALOON The Hi-Flyers (8:00)

SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M

TAMBALEO DJ Starsign, John Angle (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Henry Craft

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL

Rick Glascock (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Molly Hayes, King Slim Blues

TROPHY'S The Lower 4th, Transmography, Rescue Mission

THE VELVET SPADE Topaz (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE The Walking Contradictions

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)

Z'TEJAS Thomas Hughes & Mike Malone (6:00)

Fri 30

219 WEST DJ Trace

311 CLUB Altar Boys, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Camp Cookie Trio (3:30)

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR

Sarah Elizabeth Campbell (3:30)

ANTONE'S Exit to Naples, the Scabs (10:00)

ARTURO'S UNDERGROUND CAFE gfire (7:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Jim Stringer

AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Acoustic Happy Hour (6:00)

BACK ROOM Randy Pavlock & 24/7 (7:00), Peyton Gin, Numeric Plague, Abythos, Vex, Ruins of Honor (10:00)

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Neo Trio (8:00)

BEERLAND Boxspring Hogs, Poor Posture, Peter Elliott & the Sellouts, Kissinger

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL Damian Green Band

'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks

BROKEN SPOKE Cornell Hurd Band

New Year's Eve?
Contact the manager at
658.9508 for reservations



thurs Nuthin' New All Stars 10:00-2:00

fri DJ Gibby 10:30-2:00

sat NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH!!!

sun DJ Kurupt 10:00-2:00

mon DJ In/Verse
motown and funk 10:00-2:00

tues TWIST UP DJ Manny 10:00-2:00

wed SATISFACTION
DJ Shane 10:00-2:00

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DECEMBER 30, 2005 | THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE | 91

NEW YEARS EVE BASH

2006

T.U.B.

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\$20 IN ADVANCE
\$25 AT THE DOOR

** LIMITED TICKET AVAILABILITY **

JAN:DEC	Happy Hour 6-8 *		Headliners 9:30	
	thur	29	Gaila Kenneally	Sauce
	fri	30	Shawn & Phil	Calico Kings
	sat	31		T.U.B.
	sun	1		Les & the Funk Mob
	mon	2	Kevin Ahart	Jukebox Heroes feat. Robert Wagner
	tue	3	Seela & Friends	Trent Durham Band
	wed	4	Trent & Dave	Spazmatics

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club listings ◀ ◀ FROM FRIDAY

BROWN BAR DJ Gray, Late Night w/ mr.ripley (9:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Sean Phillips (6:00)

CLUB ONE 15 Blend Fridays w/ DJ Inverse, DJ Casanova

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Blues Specialists (6:30), Jon Dee Graham (10:00), Dale Watson Farewell Show (12mid)

COOL RIVER CAFE Kent Mayhew, the Sophisticates (6:45)

DAN MCKLUSKY'S Bobby Doyle (7:00)

THE DIRTY DOG 3 Kisses

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale, Suzi Stern, George Oldziey (6:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)

EGO'S Boxspring Hogs, the Gene Pool, Rick Broussard's 2 Hoots & a Holler (9:00)

ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Just Released

EVANGELINE CAFE Larry Lange's Lonely Knights (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Armies of Compassion, Knee Pad, Prom Nite, Bletzung

FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE Jazzopoly (7:00)

FRIENDS John McVey

GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic (7:30)

GIDDY UPS Li'l Steph

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL The Gourds (8:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones (3:00)

HEADHUNTERS Ray, Paul & Cecil; the Brownstars, D.C.C., Condemned Unit

HOLE IN THE WALL The Texas Sapphires, the Moonhangers

HOLE IN THE WALL ROUND ROCK Byrd & Street (7:30)

JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer

JOVITA'S Harry Bodine, Caldwell Shine, Seth Walker (5:30)

LA CABANA GRILL Blues Jam w/ Li'l Steph (8:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim

LUCKY LOUNGE Anagen (8:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MOMOS Tyrone Vaughn, Breedlove (10:00)

MOONRIVER Karma Dogs

MR. NATURAL Will Dunlap (7:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Kim & Her Blues Boys, Alan Haynes (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Fastrack

OSLO DJ Kunal M (10:00)

PAGGI HOUSE DJ Skot Kees (9:00)

THE PALLADIUM Vibe

PALMER EVENTS CENTER "Radio Days" w/ Five by Design (8:00)

PLUSH Micasa Tu Casa w/ Tarek, MC Flint (10:00)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke

RED EYED FLY Full Stride, Shandon Sahm, SSIK

RED FEZ Thrill Night w/ Chicken George

REDRUM King Vulture, Ohma, Wax Dart, Exit the Sun, Course of Ruin, Hatchetwork

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Lucky Strikes (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)

ROADHOUSE Vinson & Friends

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Crop Dusters

RUTA MAYA The Alice Rose, Cord, Red Letter Print

SABA BLUE WATER CAFE DJ Rhythmic (10:00)

SAENGERHALLE Randy Rogers Band

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:30), Beatles Holiday Show w/ the #9 Orchestra, Vallejo (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Chris Browder & Desperate Times

STARDUST CLUB Second Hand Rose Band

STUBB'S BAR-B-Q The Guest, Mermaid Purse, Burden Brothers

TEXAS BAR & GRILL The Burners

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Susanna Sharp & Catavento (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Eric Hisaw, Rabb Rodriguez y Los Killa Hawgs

TROPHY'S Shinola, Original Blackouts, Basin Street, Mad Scientists

VUE Mumbojumbo w/ DJ Supafly, Nathan Castle, Mike C.

THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ R.J.

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Poor Yorick

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Matt Schneiderman

Z'TEJAS Kat Edmundson (7:00)

Sat 3 1

219 WEST DJ Trace

311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (9:00)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE GTO's

ANTONE'S Billy Harvey, Bob Schneider (10:00)

ARARAT Kings & Things (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB New Year's Eve w/ Dr. Zog

BABY ACAPULCO'S NORTH Mary Welch y los Curanderos (9:00)

BACK ROOM Devola, Dirty Wormz

BARCELONA DJ Berlin

BECK'S ON CONGRESS New Year's Eve Luau w/ Combo Mahalo

BEERLAND Karaoke

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BLUE GENIE ART INDUSTRIES New Year's Eve Party w/ Small Stars Revue, White Ghost Shivers

'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow

BROWN BAR mr.ripley (10:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CAROUSEL LOUNGE New Year's Eve Bash w/ Greatest American Heroes

CEDAR STREET New Year's Eve w/ T.U.B. (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE New Year's Eve Party w/ Ponty Bone

CLUB DE VILLE Garage Party w/ Moonlight Towers, Nic Armstrong & the Thieves

CLUB ONE 15 Uptown Saturday w/ Cut Creator (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Eve Monsees & the Exiles, Toni Price, the LeRoi Brothers (9:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Kent Mayhew, Out of Phase (6:45)

DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)

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SAPPHIRES

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Th 29 Molly Hayes 6pm
King Slim Blues 9pm

Fr 30 Eric Hisaw 6pm
Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa' Hogs 9pm

Sa 31 NEW YEARS EVE!!! - Rebecca Creek,
The Hatchets, Subtle Creeps 9pm

Su 1 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly or Nate

Mo 2 Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns 6pm
Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm

Tu 3 Patrick Harkins 6pm
Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm

We 4 Joe Gee 6pm
Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm

Th 5 Johnny Gringo 6pm
Attic Ted, Train Wreck Riders,
Sudden Impulse Group 9pm

Fr 6 Zydeco Blanco 6pm
Cheryl Murdock, Stacy Steger 9pm

Sa 7 Two High String Band,
Green Mountain Grass 10pm

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PATRICIA VONNE



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LOS LOBOS



SAT JAN 21 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
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SAT FEB 11 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
JACKIE GREENE



TUE FEB 14 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
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club listings << FROM SATURDAY

THE DIRTY DOG New Year's Eve Party w/ Defining the Moment, Forty Thieves

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

DOUBLETREE HOTEL Austin Social Scene New Year's Party w/ LC Rocks, Kalico Kings, Crush, Taboo (8:00)

THE DRISKILL Pat Griffin, Suzi Stern, George Oldzley (6:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)

EGO'S 80's SIN Night (9:00)

ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Living Proof (9:30)

ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather

EMO'S New Year's Eve Bash w/ Basin Street, Slick 57, Flametrick Subs

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA New Year's Eve Reggae & Dub Ball w/ Mau Mau Chaplains, Tribal Nation, Grimy Styles (8:30)

FRIENDS Forty Thieves

GALAXY CAFE Paul White Quartet (7:00)

GIDDY UPS New Year's Eve Party w/ Big Dean

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dane Sterling (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Heybale! (1:00), John Arthur Martinez, Asleep at the Wheel (8:30)

HEADHUNTERS the Dickins, Boxspring Hogs, More Fire, Black Novas, Pink Swords

HOLE IN THE WALL Archer Avenue, Jane Bond, Scott H. Biram's Champagne Chicken Roast (10:00)

HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN New Year's Eve Party w/ Little Big Band (7:30)

JOVITA'S The Gourds

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim

LA ZONA ROSA Patricia Vonne, Reckless Kelly, Joe Ely's Electric Band (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE New Year's Eve Bash

MIDNIGHT RODEO New Year's Party w/ Aaron Watson

MOMOS Patrice Pike, Breedlove (9:00)

MOONRIVER New Year's Eve Party w/ the Wild Cards

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Rock & Roll New Year's Eve Party w/ the Rhythm Rats

THE OFFICE LOUNGE The Balls

OLD COUPLAND DANCE HALL New Year's Eve Bash w/ Jason Allen

PALMER EVENTS CENTER "Radio Days" w/ Five by Design (8:00)

THE PARISH DJ Starsign, Maneja Beto, Grupo Fantasma

THE PEACOCK Stay the Night New Year's Eve Party w/ DJ Care Clusaki & New Berlin, Hobo D & Aquaman Chill (9:00)

PLUSH Turntable Manners w/ DJ Tats, Dirty Harry

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Billy Joe Shaver

POODLE DOG LOUNGE Chili Cold Blood's New Year's Eve Bash w/ the Moonhangers, Lucas Hudgins & the 1st Cousins (9:30)

THE PUB Karaoke w/ Billy D.

RED EYED FLY Black Lamb, Dixie Witch, Honky

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:30)

REDRUM The Artillery, Consider the Source, Firekills, Seaflea, Slider (8:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB New Year's Eve Party w/ Cienfuegos (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN New Year's Eve w/ Omar & the Howlers

ROADHOUSE The Burners

ROCKY HILL RANCH SALOON W.C. Clark (9:00)

ROOM 710 Hug, Cat Scientist, Pong

RUTA MAYA DJ Blip, the Devil Bat, ST 37, Rubble w/ King Coffey, Tia Carrera

SABA BLUE WATER CAFE DJ Sugar (10:00)

SAENGERHALLE New Year's Bash w/ Wade Bowen, Stoney LaRue

SAO PAULO'S Crying Monkeys

SAXON PUB Feeding 5000, Guy Forsyth (8:00)

SHENANIGANS 4:19

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Firewall

SHOOTING STARS COFFEE Obatalah (1:00)

STARDUST CLUB New Year's Eve w/ Sam Bentley

STUBB'S BAR-B-Q Porter Davis, South Austin Jug Band

TEXAS BAR & GRILL New Year's Bash w/ the Capitol Suspects

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Rick Glascock (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN New Year's Eve Bash w/ Subtle Creeps, the Hatchets, Rebecca Creek

TROPHY'S Trashcan Baptism, Hellapeno, Broken Teeth

TROUBADOUR SALOON Both Feet, Muchos Backflips!

THE VELVET SPADE New Year's Eve Party w/ Topaz (9:00)

VIVO DJ Tomas (7:00)

THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ R.J.

Sun 01

BABY ACAPULCO'S #5 Mary Welch y los Curanderos (5:00)

BEERLAND Skullening, Cry Blood Apache, Attractive & Popular, the Undoing of David Wright, Strange Boys

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CONTINENTAL CLUB Arc Welders (9:30), Heybale! w/ Redd Volkaert & Earl Poole Ball (11:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (5:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Darin Layne Trio (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

FADÓ Paisley Close (7:00)

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs (9:00)

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75c WELL DRINKS 8-10:30
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\$1 WELLS, \$1 DRAFTS 8-10:30 pm

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1/2: \$1.75 HIGH LIFE, \$5.50 ICEHOUSE PITCHERS

TUE, 1/3: \$1.75 BUD/BUD LT., \$5.50 COORS PITCHERS
POOL TOURNAMENT NIGHT!

WED, 1/4: \$1.75 LONE STAR, \$5.50 ZIEGENBOCK PITCHERS

THU, 1/5: HAVOC DOSE, 4 SECOND LOAD, INFIDEL, RED BETWEEN LINES, STILL LIFE
FRI, 1/7: VESPERIAN SORRY (CD RELEASE), AZOTH, BAT CASTLE, SCATTERED REMAINS, WITHIN WHITE SHADOWS
SAT, 1/8: KILLZONE RECORDS CD RELEASE WITH INQUISITION, TERATISM, BAHMIRON, SUMERIA, LEGIONS OF ASTAROTH, CHURCH OV MELKARTH, TO SCALE THE THRONE



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Thurs. Dec. 29
Carolyn Wonderland 8pm

Papa Mali 11pm

Glen Collins Band
Happy Hr. 6:00 - 7:30pm No Cover

Fri. Dec. 30 11:30pm \$10

VALLEJO
The Beatles Holiday Show w/
\$10 **#9** 8pm
Orchestra

HHr. The Regulars 6pm; No Cover

Sat. Dec. 31 11pm \$20
GUY FORSYTH
8pm **Feeding 5000**

Sun. Jan. 1
The Resentments
w/ Stephen Bruton, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Bruce Hughes, Jon Dee Graham & John Chipman 7pm

Walter Tragert's Birthday
10:30pm Jay Thomas 12am

Mon. Jan. 2 8:30pm
BOB SCHNEIDER
Sara Hickman 11pm Gordy Quist

Tues. Jan. 3 8pm
The God of Hell Fire
Arthur Brown 10:30pm 12am
Jo Carol Pierce HHr. Denim 6pm Will Sexton

Wed. Jan. 4
UT Football Party
No cover
Music After The Game by:
Bruce Smith
HHr. Pauline Reese 6pm
COMING TO THE SAXON:
1/6 - Malford Milligan
1/6 - Trish Murphy
1/20 - Charlie Sexton

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SAT DECEMBER 31ST 8:00PM - SHOW 9PM
NEW YEARS EVE!
BOB SCHNEIDER
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MON JAN 2ND 8:00PM - SHOW 9PM - TICKETS AT THE DOOR
Blue Monday
DOUBLE TROUBLE
A THE BLUE MONDAY BAND FEATURING **NICK CURRAN**

THU JAN 5TH & FRI JAN 6TH
two nights!
ARC ANGELS
8:00PM - SHOW 9PM - TICKETS AT THE DOOR

SAT JAN 7TH 8:00PM - SHOW 9PM - TICKETS AT THE DOOR
Grady with special guest **BROKEN TEETH**

WED JAN 11TH 8:00PM - SHOW 9PM - TICKETS ON SALE NOW
an Early Show with
BOB SCHNEIDER
SOLO ACOUSTIC

FRI JAN 13TH 8:00PM - SHOW 9PM - TICKETS AT THE DOOR
VMG VALLEJO
with **DIRTY WORMZ**
SNOWCASE TRUTH FOR LEO • TYRONE VAUGHAN
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SAT JAN 14TH 8:00PM - SHOW 9PM - TICKETS AT THE DOOR
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club listings ◀◀ FROM SUNDAY

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Redd Volkaert (4:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Rebecca Gatchell's Ragtime Revue, Black Joe Lewis & the Cool Breeze, Pink Nasty (9:00)

MOMOS Chris Brecht, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums w/ Mike Keller, Robert Socia (8:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Karaoke w/ Edie (9:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Dewayne Davis (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mrs. K

PLUSH Car Stereo Wars

POODLE DOG LOUNGE Sunny Sweeney (8:30)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RAIN Hedda Layne (10:00)

REDRUM Troy Dillinger, [adult swim] (8:00)

ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh

SAXON PUB The Resentments, Walter Tragert, Jay Thomas (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

THE CROSSINGS Sunday Singing at Seven w/ Walt & Tina Wilkins (7:00)

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Gospel Brunch (11:00 am)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Molly Hayes (9:00)

THE WATER TANK Open Mic w/ Patrick

ANTONE'S Rob Roy Parnell (6:00); Mark Goodwin & MG3 (9:00); Roscoe, Riley Osbourne, Derek O'Brien, Frosty w/ Nick Curran (11:00) (8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Margaret Miller

Mon 02

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Kevin Ahart (6:00), Texas Eastside Kings (9:30)

CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Groove Attack w/ DJ Skorcha D. (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Paris '49 (6:30), the High Flyers (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle (7:00), Mac Bynum & Joe Morales (7:15)

EGO'S Craystal Flavola (9:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Jam w/ Michael Mordecai (9:30)

FRIENDS Eric Tessmer (7:00)

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading (7:00)

JACK'S BACKYARD Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)

LONGBRANCH INN Singer-Songwriter Night

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson, Je Renee, Carl Koonce

NASTY'S Blow Pop w/ DJ Mel, Jahmighty

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Butt Rockin' Blue Monday w/ the Textcellorators, Li'l Steph (9:00)

PARDNERS Karaoke

POODLE DOG LOUNGE The Stepsiders (9:30)

RED FEZ Motown w/ DJ Inverse

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)

SAXON PUB Sara Hickman, Bob Schneider, Mother Truckers (7:00)

SPEAKEASY James Gossett (9:30)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Elizabeth McQueen & Jason Roberts (8:00)

TROPHY'S The Meshbanes

THE WATER TANK Acoustic Jam Open Mic w/ Tony Fant

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

Tue 03

1920S CLUB Mac Bynum (7:00)

219 WEST Crucial Prophet

311 CLUB 3-Piece Special (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Vanessa Peters (3:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Olde Time Fiddlers Jam

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:30)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Pedernales Playboys

BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Super Fantastic Duo w/ Seela Green (6:00), Trent Durham Band (9:30)

CHARLIE'S Margaret Wright

CLUB ONE 15 Reggae Night (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Doak Short (5:30), Toni Price (6:30), Barfield (11:00)

CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Open Mic w/ Bonnie & Blythe (9:00)

THE DIRTY DOG Eric Hargett's Jazz Jam

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle (7:00)

EGO'S The Texas Sapphires, Mother Truckers (8:30)

EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Christine Young, Melissa Mullins (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (4:00), Stan Killian CD Release (9:30)

ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah & DJ Doja

EMO'S Shim Shams, the Paper South, Til We're Blue or Destroy, Masonic

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Gene Taylor (6:00)

FADÓ Tea Merchants (8:00)

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Deep Sessions w/ DJ Toddy B

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Then, beginning at 12 am New Year's Day, we'll play cuts from
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The Grand Prize Winner of the Top 107 CDs and personal
CD player will be drawn January 3rd at 7:30am with
Kevin Connor on KGSR in the Morning.
Results of the 2005 KGSR Music Poll will be posted on
kgsr.com after New Year's Day.



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2/10/6 ... TIX ONSALE NOW ... DOORS 8PM

SPLIT LIP
RAYFIELD
TIX ONSALE
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2/15/6 ... DOORS 8PM

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WITH **ADAM RICHMAN**

FRI JAN 13
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THU JAN 19
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FRI JAN 20 

GAELIC STORM
SAT JAN 21

GENE POOL
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SUN JAN 22 

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THU JAN 26 

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THU 12/29 **KARAOKE**
FRI 12/30 **DONNY TAYLOR BAND**
SAT 12/31 **NEW YEARS EVE PARTY WITH OMAR & THE HOWLERS**
SUN 1/1 **OPEN MIC WITH STERLING FINLAY**
MON 1/2 **TBA**
TUE 1/3 **FREE BINGO WITH CASH PRIZES**
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club listings << FROM TUESDAY

FLAMINGO CANTINA Sex Machines, DJ Robbie Sparxxx, DJ Soviet Sex Experiment (8:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory
FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Alan Haynes (7:30)
GIDDY UPS Marina (6:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Billy Dee (9:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Stop the Truck
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open Stage w/ Felix the Kid
HABANA CALLE 6 Trey Lanshe (8:00)
HANOVER'S Pete Benz & Friends (7:30)
HEADHUNTERS Stun Gun, Floozy, Werewolf Monkeyman Band
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Josh (8:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Kacy Crowley, Billy Harvey (9:00)
IT'S ITALIAN "Frankly Singing" w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
JOVITA'S Jodi Adair, Grassy Knoll Boys (6:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa, John Pointer (11:00)
MOMOS Drew Smith, Seth Truett, Danny Malone (8:00)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D
OSLO Lucy's Wild w/ DJ Shane
PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)
PLUSH Mentalnote
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Adrian & the Sickness (10:00)
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin
RED EYED FLY The Hat Madder (10:15)
RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:15)
RED'S SCOOT INN Li'l Steph & the Chromatics
REDRUM Enormity, Dressed for the Funeral, Dear Furious, Armed With Courage, August Burns Red
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine (6:30)
RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK Karaoke w/ Mr. K.

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Dragon
ROMEO'S Jacinta (6:30)
ROPER'S NIGHTCLUB Open Mic w/ Cory Michael (9:00)
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Tony Maserati & Skinny Don
RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ 70 Thru Selma (9:00)
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)
SAXON PUB Denim (6:00), Arthur Brown, Jo Carol Pierce, Will Sexton (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
SPEAKEASY KKQ (9:30)
TAMBALEO Rock & Roll Bingo (10:00)
TAVERN ON THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Raquel
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Brian Kremer

Wed 04

1920S CLUB Liz Morphis (8:30)
219 WEST The SG Project (7:00)
311 CLUB Devren (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Hunt Sales (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Haydn Vitera (1:00)
AGAVE Eric Tessmer (9:00)
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland
AUSTIN MUSIC CO-OP Laydeez Open Mic
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Lucky Tomblin
BROWN BAR DJ Manny
CAFE MUNDI Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave (6:00), 80's Party w/ the Spazmatics (9:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB Karaoke (8:00)
CLUB ONE 15 Way Back w/ Cut Creator (9:00)
COFFEE CREATOR Je Renee, Cheryllyn, John Wilson (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gary Clark Jr. (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:30)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee
THE DIRTY DOG Millard, Doss, & Kelson; Joe Richardson Express
DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage
THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle (7:00)
EGO'S Austin Poetry Slam (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharaohs (6:00), Ephraim Owens Quartet (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S ST 37, Good Times Crisis Band, Boxcar Satan, Gorch Fock
EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)
FAD0 Patrick Fleming (9:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Paperwork
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The El Orbits, Rokka-Tone
FRIENDS John McVey (10:30)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Ian of Echosystemz (8:00)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Tim Doyle (11:45 am), Woode Wood (noon), Christina Roberts & Guests (7:00)
HILLTOP TAVERN Open Mic
JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer
LA PALAPA Bobby Fuente & the Flames (8:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Casey McPherson (9:00)

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SAT 12/31 > HAPPY NEW YEAR! PINK SWORDS (GEARHEAD RECORDING ARTISTS), BLACK NOVAS, MORE FIRE, BOX SPRING HAWGS (PATIO), DICKINS

SUN 1/1 > CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY MON 1/2 > WENDYS 8-DAY PARTY
TUE 1/3 > WEREWOLF MONKEY MAN BAND, FLOOZY, STUN GUN

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SHANDON SAHM
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SATURDAY-DECEMBER 31
THE BEST BANG FOR \$5 BUCKS ON NEW YEARS EVE
HONKY
DIXIE WITCH
BLACK LAMB

UPCOMING JANUARY SHOWS

FRIDAY-JANUARY 6
HATCHETWORK, BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY
VESPERIAN SORROW, WEAKEN THE ADVERSARY DEAD HAVEN

SATURDAY-JANUARY 7
MOONEN, THE ADDICTIONS, SHELLEY KNIGHT
AND THE LIMIN DEAD, 21 DOWN, STUNGUN

FRIDAY-JANUARY 13
BROKEN TEETH, BORN TO LOSE
NEW DISASTER, HEAD PANIC

SATURDAY-JANUARY 14
CREEKIST, LEAVING JULY
SCREAMING AT THE SKY, THE ARTILLERY

FRIDAY-JANUARY 20
HONKY, SCOTT H. BIRAM

SATURDAY-JANUARY 21
SOUNDS UNDER RADIO, DYNAB
RED MINOR, TIAN MOON

FRIDAY-JANUARY 27
FRIENDS OF LIZZY, SPIRALING
SLOW MOTION PICTURE (REUNION SHOW)
ZACK HERON, DEAD BLACK HEARTS

UPCOMING FEBRUARY SHOWS

2-10 GRADY HELLAPRO AND SPECIAL GUESTS
2-11 BOOM TO LOVE, FAR FROM FINISHED, BLACK STAR BRIGADE
THE BOOKED
2-12 THE LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS
2-18 NASHVILLE PUSSY HONKY

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CHURCHBUS
RON TITTER BAND
Members of Slinky del Negro and Peacocks

THU 12.30 **BOMBASTA**
FIVE TON CHICKEN
MONKIES DOIN' IT
ECHO SQUAD

SAT 12.31 **PONG**
CAT SCIENTIST
HUG

SUN 1.1 **CLOSED**
STARTING OUR NEW YEAR WITH ME TIME

MON 1.2 **HEART & SOUL**
SOUND SYSTEM
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TUE 1.3 **ROCK 'N ROLL**
SING ALONG
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WED 1.4 **Twilight Show Special**
THE TUNA HELPERS
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8pm: Bearded Clam Diggers

UPCOMING SHOWS
1.5 Gun Teller, Weckers, Hilly by A Cox, Strip Club DJs 1.7 Pleasant Valley,
Condemned Unit 1.13 TBM Benefit 1.29 Omar Sba, Abbey Wall, Nova Blues

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THU SPECIAL EVENT! DEC 29
BLITZKRIEG
Industrial Audio Warfare
with DJs Raleigh & Sensoria

FRI SPECIAL EVENT! DEC 30
VIRUS!
SPREAD THE VIRUS! - THE ECLIPSE MAGAZINE
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with DJs Hypervision (aka Liquid Mercury)

SAT NEW YEAR'S EVE DEC 31
HAVEN
goth, industrial, synthpop, & eurodance
DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

SUN NEW YEAR'S NIGHT JAN 1
retro 80's
REGRESSION
DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

TUE lesbian night JAN 3
SAPPHO'S ISLE
DJ AMERYKAH & DJ DOJA
DOUBLE ELIMINATION POOL TOURNAMENT!
(MUST SIGN UP BY 11PM)

WED NO COVER JAN 4
MIDWAVE
dark 80's retro & old school goth
DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thu Jan 5 * Live! Ghetto Princess,
Secular End, Hollow
Fri Jan 6 * Live! PAIL, Lust Murder Box,
Super Villain (from Houston)
Fri Jan 13 * the Dead Sullivan Show!
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fr 30 **Kissinger, Peter Elliot and the**
Sellouts, Poor Posture and more

sa 31 **Box Spring Hogs @ 7pm**
New Year's Eve KARAOKE !!!
Starving Pennies
(Johnny Walker's new band)

su 1 **The Strange Boys, Undoing**
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Popular, Cry Blood Apache

mo 2 **Rock & Roll Karaoke**
1000+ songs--no cover!
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tu 3 **Comedy Happy Hour**
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8pm-9:30

we 4 **Broken Flowers (Jim Jarmush) @ 7pm**

th 5 **Cue, Quien Es, Boom!, Jana**
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Sat 12/31, 8pm, \$5/\$9
New Year's Eve Show
Slider, Sealica, Firekills, Consider the Source, The Artillery
Tue 1/3, 7pm, \$5/\$9
Angust Burns Red, Armed With Courage, Bear Furious, Dressed for the Funeral, Curmuity
Wed 1/4, 8pm, \$5/\$9
Honky Tonk Wednesdays Kickoff Show
Wayne "The Train" Hancock
Fri 1/6, 8pm
Big Balls, The Betcu of The Trash Rock Kings
Sat 1/7, 7pm
Luann (Junkyard Mary) Benefit Show
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HAPPY HOUR TIL TEN, NO COVER!

WEDS 1/04 - ROCK ——— 830 DOORS, 9 SHOW

PAPERWORK

01/05 - business deal rees showcase - the carrots basic, fishboy, cherie's magic windmill band count down! weed smuggling jam machine

01/06 - lee skinnerles, nowie thermos of release, Unspoken Elements, Kevin Goes to College

01/07 - Fullservice tour kickoff show, the Invincible Czars, Downfall 2012, Monkeytown

01/11 - nearmiss, strikefire,fall, Ruins of Broadway, the underscore, juneau

01/12 - red team go, goodaide, People that Saved the World, Belafonte, Cartwright

01/13 - misprint mag portay - with Handsome Charlies, Bros & Sisters, Lornita

01/14 - grimy styles

01/18 - Facundo's Night out with Funk Brest, Annabella, plus spoken word, visual art

01/19 - Jade Day, David Newbould, Holly Venter

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calendar » COMMUNITY » ARTS » FILM » MUSIC

club listings ◀◀ FROM WEDNESDAY

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE
Electric Mayhem

MOMOS Billy Harvey, the Heathens, Sea Horse (8:00), the Bourbon Soldiers (12:30 am)

MOONRIVER Karaoke

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH The Alter Boys (8:00)

OILCAN HARRY'S Allan T.

OSLO SongsAlive! (6:00)

PARDNERS Kara

THE PARLOR Possessed by Paul James, Ralph White, Klier Channel

PLUSH Original Block Party w/ DJ Tats (10:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones the Singing Bartender

THE PUB Jam Session w/ Frank

RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED FEZ Glam Rock w/ DJ Shane, DJ Linda

RED'S SCOOT INN The Moonhangers (9:00)

REDRUM Honky Tonk Wednesday w/ Wayne "The Train" Hancock (8:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D

SAKÉ ON SIXTH Get Broke Wednesdays w/ Merrick Brown

SAXON PUB Pauline Reese (6:00), Bruce Smith, Dimestrore Poets (10:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Shooting Star Karaoke (8:00)

SOUTH FORTY Karaoke w/ J.R. the DJ (9:00)

SPEAKEASY The Brew

TAMBALEO Krunkaoke w/ DJ Mel (10:00)

VICTORY GRILL The Blues Specialists (5:30)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan

Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Singwriter Night w/ Jenni Lord

Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Friends (6:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

Thu 05

311 CLUB 3 Piece Special, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Danny Britt & Red Dawg (3:30)

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Circle in a Square (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Sam Shepherd (12:30)

ANTONE'S Arc Angels (9:00)

AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)

AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Poetry Karaoke Open Mic (8:00)

BARCELONA DJ Tats

BEERLAND Horse + Donkey, Jana Hunter, Quien 'es Boom!, Cue

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL Open Mic w/ Sidney

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

BROWN BAR mr.ripley

CAFE MUNDI Avenue Elle (5:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Rock en Español w/ Haydn Vitera (9:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Newsboyz (9:15)

DARWIN'S PUB J.T. Coldfire

THE DETOUR Open Mic w/ David John, Big Steve, Easy Dave (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Chinampa (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Giant City Jazz, Eddy Hobizal Quartet (9:30)

EMO'S Outside: The New Glow, Animals of the Bible, My Education, Black Angels; Inside: For Those Who Know, Sinews, Camp X-Ray, the Arm; Patio: Attak (in) Formation

FADÓ DJ Gerry (10:00)

THE FOUNDATION Coy West

FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE Jazzopoly (7:00)

GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Kris Farrow (7:30), Noltey (9:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke

JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Larry Lange's Lonely Knights (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Damesviolet (10:00)

MAMBO KINGS CLUB Recon Thursday w/ Loki, Secret Agent, Durhdy, Jungle Jim, B-1, DJ Mattis

MOMOS Emergenza International Music Festival w/ Those Meddling Kids, Tastydactyls, Oceanus, Emuar, Devola, Love Buckit (9:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)

NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Big Jim

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Blues Jam w/ Dewayne Davis (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Jamie

OSLO The Bumps (11:00)

PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL K'Cee

THE PUB Karaoke

RED FEZ Strangetribe w/ Jeff Strange, DJ Nu-Mark, DJ Manny

RED'S SCOOT INN The Nortons (8:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (6:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke

ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)

ROMEO'S Jacinta (6:30)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Beth Garner CD Release, George Devore (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D

SHOAL CREEK SALOON The Hi-Flyers (8:00)

SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M

TAMBALEO DJ Starsign, John Angle (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Henry Craft

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Annoying Instrumental Orchestra (7:30)

THE VELVET SPADE Topaz (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE The Walking Contradictions

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)

Z'TEJAS Thomas Hughes & Philippe Vieux (6:00)

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JODI ADAIR 6-7:30PM

WEDNESDAY 1/4 8-10PM
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BOWL GAME SCHEDULE
MEINEKE CAR CARE: SOUTH FLORIDA (6-5) VS. NC STATE (6-5) 11AM
LIBERTY: TULSA (8-4) VS. FRESNO STATE (8-4) 1PM
HOUSTON: TCU (10-1) VS. IOWA STATE (7-4) 2:30PM

sn 1/1 WE WILL BE OPENING TODAY AT 1PM
9PM-1PM KARAOKE W/ EDIE

mo 1/2 **BOWL GAME SCHEDULE**
COTTON: TEXAS TECH (9-2) VS. ALABAMA (9-2) 11AM
OUTBACK: IOWA (7-4) VS. FLORIDA (8-3) 11AM
GATOR: LOUISVILLE (9-2) VS. VIRGINIA TECH (10-2) 12:30PM
CAPITAL ONE: WISCONSIN (9-3) VS. AUBURN (9-2) 1PM
FIESTA: NOTRE DAME (9-2) VS. OHIO STATE (9-2) 4PM
SUGAR: W. VIRGINIA (10-1) VS. GEORGIA (10-2) 8:30PM
7:30PM MOTHER EGAN'S TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT! WIN A PLACE ON THE FINALS FOR A CHANCE AT TWO ROUND TRIP TICKETS TO VEGAS. NO COVER, NO MINIMUM PURCHASE, NO REASON NOT TO PLAY.

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COMICS

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN

BY SHANNON WHEELER



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WHEELER

TROUBLETOWN

BY LOUD DANCIE

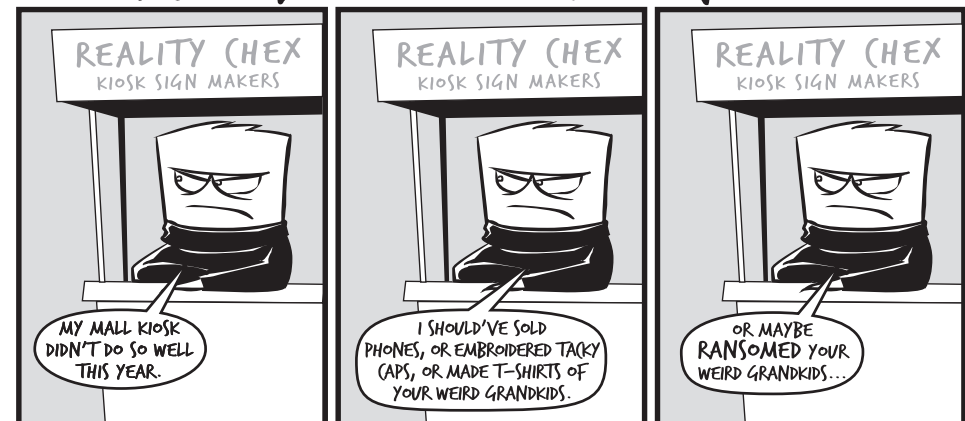


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BITTER YETI IN THE CITY

BY JASON STOUT
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MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Some believe the Rapture will happen on 06/06/06.
(Perhaps because it didn't happen on 06/06/66?)

According to www.exodus2006.com, 2006 is the year indicated by an angel to the prophet Daniel for the "time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations" (Daniel 12:1) – the same words used by Jesus in Matthew 24:21.

One prophecy says that during 2006, new theories regarding the birth of language will get a surprising amount of media attention.

Some see Holland as the underdog winner of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, which will be starting in Germany on 06/09/06 (if all goes well, this will be three days after the Rapture on 06/06/06).

Viswanathan Anand is favored to win the 2006 World Chess Championship.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

454-5767

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CLASSIFIEDS

100 JOBS

110 Art/Design
115 Beauty/Salon/Spa
120 Entertainment/
Casting
125 General
130 Healthcare
135 Hospitality
140 Legal
145 Office/Clerical
150 Non-Profit
155 Professional
160 Research Study
165 Retail
170 Sales/Marketing
175 School/Training
180 Technical

200 HOUSING

210 Reader Notice
215 Apartment/
Condo/Townhome
220 Duplex/Houses
225 Vacation
230 Commercial
235 Roommates
240 Real Estate For Sale

300 BUY/SELL/TRADE

310 Antiques/
Collectibles
315 Appliances
320 Baby/Kids Stuff
325 Clothing
330 Computers
335 Electronics
340 Free Stuff
345 Furniture
350 Garage/
Estate Sales
355 General
360 Jewelry/
Accessories
365 Pets/Pet Supplies
370 Recreational
375 Tickets/
Entertainment
380 Tools
385 Trades
390 Wanted to Buy

400 SERVICES

410 Business
415 Computers
420 Counseling
425 Health/Wellness
430 Home
435 Financial
440 Fitness/Training
445 Legal
450 Licensed Massage
455 Psychic/Astrology
460 Travel
465 Miscellaneous

500 NOTICES

510 Activities
515 Classes/Workshops
520 Discussion Groups
525 Events
530 General
535 Lost & Found
540 Volunteers
545 Legal Notices

600 MOTOR

610 Cars
615 Trucks
620 SUV's
625 Motorcycles
630 Recreational
635 Parts
640 Repairs

700 MUSIC

710 Equipment for Sale
715 Music Instruction
720 Musicians Available
725 Musicians Wanted
730 Recording Studios
735 Rentals/Services
740 Shameless
Promotion

PERSONALS

Lovers Lane
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Messages



110 ART/DESIGN

ART

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115 BEAUTY SALON/SPA

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120 ENTERTAINMENT CASTING

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125 GENERAL

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If you have experience in any one of these areas, we are looking for you to teach children ages 4-16 in the Austin & Taylor area 3-4 afternoons a week 2:30-6 pm, some nights available.

Responsible applicants only. Must have dependable transportation. Please call for more information:

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NEED MAID Searching for temp employee on a regular basis. For info. Call 771-7169.

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Starting pay \$8.75-\$9.35/hr. EOE. Sites at 61 elementary schools. Apply at Extend-A-Care for Kids, 55 North IH 35, www.eackids.org, or call 472-9929 x408.

PETITION COLLECTION

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REGISTER/KITCHEN HELP

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-Flex Scheduling- Call from out phone center in N. Central Austin. Evening & weekend hours. Must read well & have good phone skills. \$7 to \$9/hr. Call TDM Research after 10 am. 323-6697

130 HEALTHCARE

HEALTH ATTENDANT Attention Nursing & Pre-Med majors, seeking energetic & cheerful Home Health attendants. \$10/hr. Will train, all shifts avail. Call Cindy Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm for appt. No LATE Calls to Clinic Please. 512-371-3036

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135 HOSPITALITY

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ALL



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(Anderson Mill & 183)

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BANQUET MANAGER Prestigious downtown private club seeks experienced banquet manager. FT with benefits. Apply in person only, 2-4pm, M-F, at the Austin Club, 110 E. 9th St.

BAR Downtown Bar looking for friendly experienced bartenders fax resume to 472-3251.

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La Morada
Mexican Restaurant

What experience do you need? A great smile, like to meet all kinds of people, and able to have fun at work. If your that person, than apply at 12407 N. Mopac Expy (next to HEB) or call
836-6611

BARTENDER \$300/day potential. No exp. nec. Training provided. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

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CASHIERS Needed ASAP
\$8-\$11 + STARTING!!!
High energy, integrity-driven, teamwork-minded salespeople desired.
Pick up an application at any Austin area location and fax it to 512-236-1234
Attn: Preston

EMPLOYMENT Looking for a new job? Have to hire a new employee? Check out the great job opportunities in this week's *Austin Chronicle*. If you would like information on how to place an ad, call 454-5765.

DANCERS & WAITRESSES
The Landing Strip
MAKE BIG \$\$\$
FT/PT, flex. sched., no exp. nec., 745 Bastrop Hwy, one mile from the airport.
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576-7223

WAIT PERSON Dirty Martin's Hamburgers FULL or PT. Exp. required, Current TABC certificate needed & Exc. references. Apply 3-5 M-F, 2808 Guadalupe

WAITSTAFF
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Mexican Restaurant

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WAITSTAFF Immediate Openings! Flexible schedule. Las Palomas Restaurant/Bar, Westwood Shopping Center, 3201 Bee Caves #122.
Apply in Person Tues.-Sat.

160 RESEARCH STUDY
ASTHMA/ALLERGIES
DO YOU HAVE ASTHMA AND SEASONAL ALLERGIES?
A research trial is being conducted to study the effectiveness of the investigational use of FDA approved asthma and allergy medications.
To Qualify You Must:
• Currently have symptoms of both asthma AND seasonal allergies
• Be 15 years or older
• Willing to participate for up to six weeks
Qualified Participants May Receive:
• Study-related investigational medication or placebo
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• Compensation of up to \$400 for time and travel
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145 OFFICE/CLERICAL
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Work with amazing people dedicated to concrete social and environment change.
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165 RETAIL
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170 SALES MARKETING
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AUTO GLASS REPAIR TECH \$100-\$200 per day. PT & FT. Call John 587-3317

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FutureSearch Trials is currently conducting INPATIENT and OUTPATIENT research studies for people with:

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BIPOLAR
DISORDER

Participants should be at least 18 years of age. Be able to provide written informed consent. Financial compensation to those who qualify.

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BLOOD PRESSURE
MEN AND WOMEN WITH HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE
A clinical research trial is being conducted to study the blood pressure lowering effect of an investigational medication.
To Qualify You Must Be:
• 18 years or older
• Willing to make up to 11 visits over 14 weeks
Qualified Participants May Receive:
• Study-related investigational medication or placebo
• Study-related laboratory and physical examinations
• Compensation for time and travel
For information call or visit our website
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If you have experience in any one of these areas, we are looking for you to teach children ages 4-16 in the Austin & Taylor area 3-4 afternoons 2:30-6pm, some nights available. Responsible applicants only. Must have dependable transportation.

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DECEMBER 30, 2005 | THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE | 109

RESEARCH STUDIES

Do you have Asthma And Seasonal Allergies?

A research trial is being conducted to study the effectiveness of the investigational use of an FDA approved asthma and allergy medications.

To Qualify You Must Be:

- ▲ Currently have symptoms of both asthma AND seasonal allergies
- ▲ 15 years or older
- ▲ Willing to participate for up to six weeks

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- ▲ Study-related investigational medication or placebo
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- ▲ Compensation of up to \$400.00 for time and travel

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Men and Women with High Blood Pressure

A clinical research trial is being conducted to study the blood pressure lowering effect of an investigational medication.

To Qualify You Must Be:

- ▲ 18 years or older
- ▲ Willing to make up to 11 visits over 14 weeks

Qualified Participants May Receive:

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Apply in person at
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EOE

WRITING PROGRAM Diversity in Journalism: The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 18 - August 13, 2006) aims to

recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in magazine-style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and a downloadable application visit the Web site at <http://www.altjournalism.org>. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 10, 2006. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

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ARBORETUM \$796 / 1br - Gables Grandview! 2 MONTHS FREE! Free! Happy New Year!!! Reply to: emailchristopher@austin.rr.com Available 1/15/06 Gables Grandview Apartment You take over my lease that ends June 30th, 2006. I pay your January/February rent! 1600 bucks in YOUR POCKET!! * Large pantries * Exceptional kitchens include: * Granite countertops /island * Cherrywood cabinetry * WiFi Internet Café * Resident recreation room in clubhouse * Picnic areas * Bull Creek Park with hike and bike trails nearby * Convenient access to Lake Travis and Lake Austin * Surrounded by Austin's major employers * Breathtaking hill country & Lake Austin views * Only 5 minutes from the dining, shopping and recreation of the Arboretum, Complimentary DVD library * 24 hour spacious fitness center * Beautiful swimming pool with infinity edge * Poolside cabana with gas BBQ grills Gorgeous 1 bedroom apartment. Like new. I'm the only one who's lived in it. Sunset views, full size washer/dryer, dishwasher and spacious kitchen. Amazing pool, free parking, etc. Check out the Gables site below to see exact specs and all the features of the unit. <http://www.gables.com/PropertyTour/FloorPlans.cfm?propid=10858&FID=428181067222> at 360 google map yahoo map * yes -- cats are OK - purrr * yes -- dogs are OK - woof

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78704

•Treasure. Small Apt. community with views of dwtn. Starting @ \$450, 2 weeks FREE! Woohoo!

•Townhomes w/ backyards, secluded Apts. dogs ok, \$700!

•Hip neighborhood, mins. from dwtn. small pool, long term residents, starting @ \$475!

•Cool little Apt. bldg. close to dwtn/bus stops/neighborhood bar, long term residents. Starting @ \$469!

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CENTRAL Best 78704 deal! 1br \$535, 2br \$635 featuring lots of natural light, W/D conn, private patios. Lush landscaping. superb mgmt. APP 474-4900 http://www.bestaustintproperties.com

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CENTRAL Eclectic old school Austin! Walk to auditorium shores and soco dining 1bd \$650, 2bd \$850. NOW. 258-8224

CENTRAL eff. condo block from south congress \$650
CALL Sweet Rachel 653.1523 sweetrachel01@yahoo.com

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CENTRAL Hyde Park Village Bargain! 2/1 & 2/2's from \$700. Pool & covered parking, 451-2343

CENTRAL Hidden Travis Heights community on Greenbelt! 1BDRM, \$599. 2BD/2BA, perfect roommate plan, \$799. \$99 total move in! Nothing more to pay until February. Call Team Leasing 416-8333.

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Great Prices Too!

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TOTAL MOVE-IN

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Huge private decks!

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CENTRAL STAINED POLISHED CONCRETE FLOORS! Unique artist's/musician's warehouse apartments. 1BDRM Flat... \$539. Huge 2BDRM...\$649, 4BDRM Flat \$999. Call Team Leasing (512) 416-8333.

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CENTRAL Walk to Zilker Park/Aud. Shores. Tile/stone/wood floors floors, 1bd \$675 2bd \$950. NOW. 258-8224

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NORTH 1/1 550sqft \$470 Near IH-35. 24hr LNL gets mo. Free on a 12mo. lease john@atxrelo.com 659-5339

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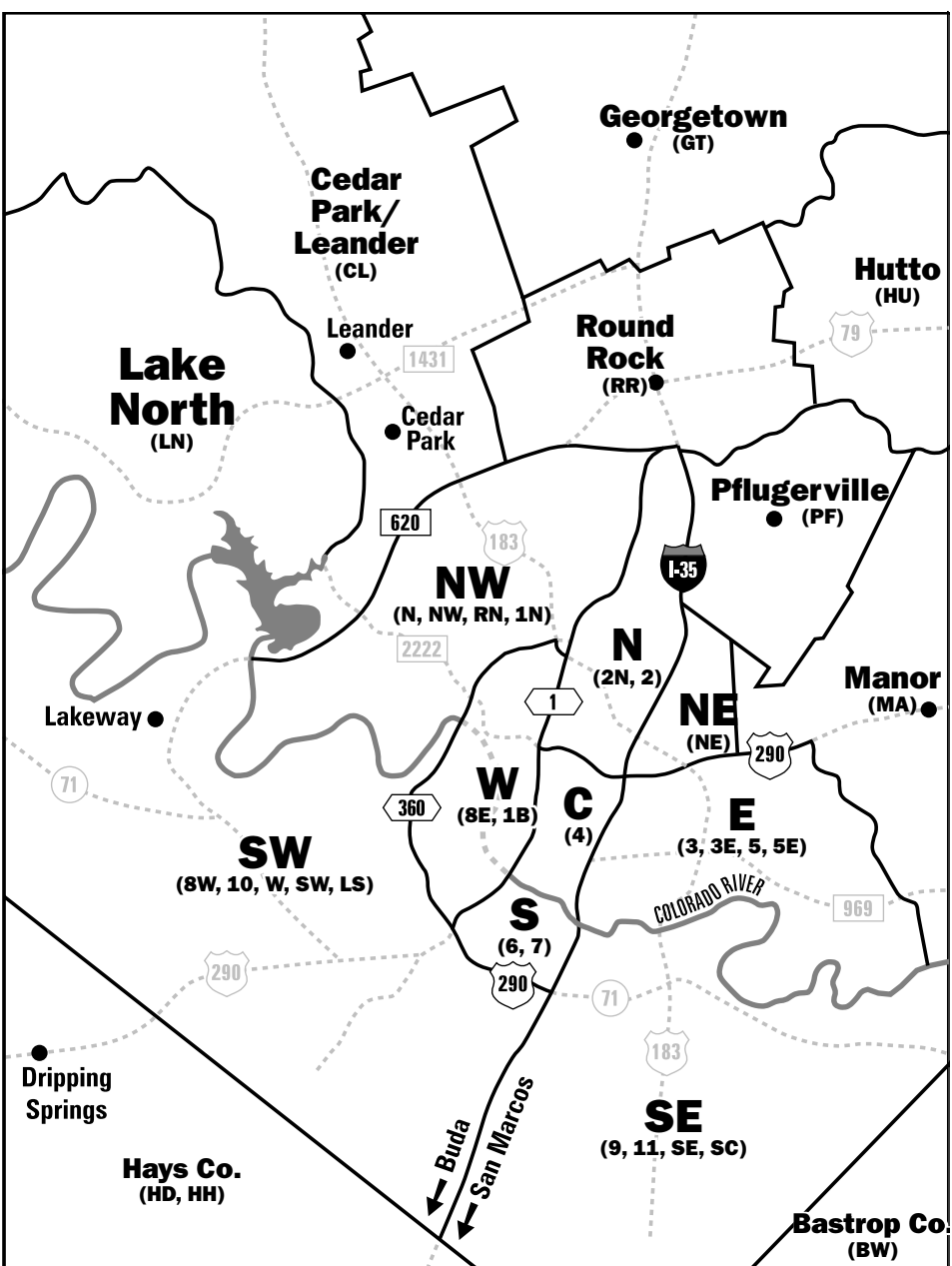
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SOUTH

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Completely remodeled with ceramic tile upgrades, modern appliances and free cable! Huge 1BDRM... \$495! Large 2BDRM/2BA... \$595!

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Remodeled, Free cable! STUDIO FLAT... \$415 1BDRM... \$475 2BDRM... \$515 *****

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- We can email pictures & floor plans to the hottest specials in town.

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SOUTH #1 Cool 2/2, Central Market South, walk to grocery/shopping, two decks, cable paid, \$690. 693-7231 http://Austincool.com

SOUTH #1 Huge Town Lake 2/2. Hike/Bike trail, cable, big bdms \$595 693-7231 http://Austincool.com

SOUTH Art-Deco, concrete floors, Jacuzzi bathtubs, Activities Rm Pool Tables, Big Screen 1BR \$539, 2BR \$639 Apt Experts 416-8100

SOUTH #1 Total urban living experience, 2/2. Hand-stained concrete floors, Art Deco, stainless steel/glass accents, W/D, \$639! 693-7231 http://Austincool.com

SOUTH \$99 MOVE IN! Central Market South. FREE Cable. 1/1 \$525, 2/1 \$625. Call Sharon ATX Agt 512-786-7328

SOUTH \$99 total move in, 1 bed \$480, 2 bed \$599, ez terms. Call 472-9100 www.texasapt.com

SOUTH CENTRAL 3/2 1240sqft. \$763, \$100 dep Short drive to St. Ed's, & DT, john@atxrelo.com 659-5339

SOUTH 1/1 water paid, UT Shuttle. Hot tub sauna, W/D conns. \$490, \$0 dep, \$0 app. john@atxrelo.com 659-5339

SOUTH 360/MoPac, Washer and dryer in all units! Studio Flat... \$450, 2BDRM... \$635. Huge private decks. Call Team Leasing, (512) 416-8333.

SOUTH

TIRED OF RENTING?

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659-5339 or john@atxrelo.com

SOUTH Barton Hills Eff & Lofts. Small Courtyard. Trees, Pool, Zilker Park. \$525 - \$605. Apt Experts. 416-8100

SOUTH Beautiful 2-2's, \$679 Modern Kitchens & Bathrooms, Water Paid, Pool, Computer room. Activities for Children. Richard 657-2314, Richard@atxrelo.com

SOUTH CENTRAL \$99 Total Move-In - 78704. Most Bills Paid. 600 sqft, \$500/month. 587-5090 greg@atxrelo.com

SOUTH CENTRAL 1703 Antler, 3/2/2, stainless appliances, gourmet kitchen, screen porch w/sky lights, tile, berber, custom paint, \$1,250. MRG - 443-2526.

SOUTH CENTRAL BIG DOG friendly apartments right behind Zilker Park and Barton Creek Hike and Bike Trails. HUGE private deck. 1 bedroom \$639. 2 bedroom \$739, Call Team Leasing 416-8333.

SOUTH CENTRAL W/Ds + walk to Central Market. Eff. \$427, 1 BD \$447, 2 BD \$687. 587-5090 greg@atxrelo.com

SOUTH Large 2-2.5, \$800, townhomes, bedrooms upstairs, WD included, Large kitchens, small yard, new carpet. Richard 657-2314 Richard@atxrelo.com

SOUTH Duplexes, T/H's, Condos 2/2's As Low as \$595 atxrelo.com 444-0505

SOUTH Huge patios, great views, some bills paid, eff. from \$398, 1BR from \$463, 2BR from \$595, 567-4276, LESA http://www.gimmeshelterlocators.com

SOUTH Lamar 2/2 \$599 walk to central market, roommate floorplan, All bills paid! Call Sweet Rachel 653.1523 sweetrachel01@yahoo.com

SOUTH Free Apt., House & Duplex Locating! Buying a house? I can do that also. Jason 512-947-5089 ATXRELO

SOUTH Large 1-1's, \$519, \$539 w/ vaulted ceilings, Water, Gas, Trash Paid, Gas Stove, Pool. Rich 657-2314, Richard@atxrelo.com

SOUTH Large 1-1, \$530, WD, Water Paid. Gated, Pool, Fitness Cntr, Dry bar, UT shuttle, within minutes to downtown. Richard 657-2314, Richard@atxrelo.com

SOUTH Most Bills Paid, Gated Community, \$200 off 1st mth. Eff. 1, 2 BDs. \$465-645. greg@atxrelo.com 587-5090

SOUTH Most bills paid. Hot water & water paid. 1BR \$445, 2Br \$585, 3BR \$650. Pool, basketball, gated. Apt Experts 416-8100.

SOUTH Move-in specials, 1bd \$469, 2bd \$589, pools, basketball crt, water pd, avignonrealty.com, 236-0002.

SOUTH R U looking? Free service! Locate an apt, townhome, condo, duplex or house. Greg 587-5090 ATX

SOUTH Why pay rent? When you may be able to own a home instead? You can own a home - 3 bedroom, 2 baths, and 2 car garage worth \$150,000 and pay about the same as a 2 bedroom apartment! Get more for your money act now while interest rates are still low! Call Eddie Reynolds today: 512-921-9100

SOUTH Reduced Rates & Deposits. Water Paid, Fitness, Gates, 1BR \$490 2BR \$700. Apt Experts 416-8100.

SOUTH Travis heights townhome \$825, \$199 moves you in. Call 472-9100 or www.texasapt.com

SOUTH water/gas/cable paid, up to \$300 off. Eff \$480, 1bd \$525, 2-1 \$645, 2-2 \$680, 236-0002.

SOUTH Large 1-1, \$539, WD, Concrete floors, Fitness cntr, Game room, Pool, Gas Stove, Gated, UT shuttle, Richard ATX RELOCATION 657-2314. Richard@atxrelo.com

SOUTH Sherwood Apartments @ 710 Oltorf Rd. HUGE 1/1 and 2/1 starting at \$495 and \$595. Pool, attentive management, courtyards, tranquil living creeksidel Ann 441-3174 Beck and Company R.E.S., Inc.

SOUTHEAST 3/2 1045 s.f. \$838. southeast side. 10% rebate. call Richard 657-2314

SOUTHEAST 2/1 Southeast \$680 -Pets Welcome. John 659-5339

SOUTHEAST Student Housing 2,3,4 bedrooms. From \$540. Richard 657-2314

SOUTHEAST 2/1.5 apt. \$599 10% Cashback Call Richard 657-2314

SOUTHEAST 4/2 Large! \$1120 \$0 Deposit John 659-5339

SOUTHEAST 2/2 998 s.f. Very Nice Cash Back Rebate. call Richard 657-2314


SOUTHEAST \$350 off 1st mo rent, Enormous 1BR \$465, 2BR \$550 Metro & UT Shuttle, Gated, Fitness Ctr. Apt Experts. 416-8100

SOUTHEAST Free Cable! 1BD 700 sqft. \$495, 2BD 900 sqft. \$535, 3BD 1300 sqft - \$775. Greg @ 587-5090 ATX

SOUTHEAST FREE CABLE! 1/1.5, 904sqft \$535 john@atxrelo.com 659-5339

SOUTHEAST Lake Art-deco 1st Mo. Free 1BR \$499, 2BR \$614, Stained concrete floors, Apartment Experts 416-8100.

PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK!




CENTRAL

- Big and cheap apartment, with free cable! Efficiency \$415, 1 bedroom \$475, 2 bedroom \$515.
- Close to Central Market, small community with gas cooking. 1 bedroom \$529, 2 BDRM \$699
- 78704 District, Studio \$490, 2 bedroom \$700, W/D in all units!
- Heavily wooded hilltop 1 bedroom, huge 16 ft. private porch, oversized garden tub, \$485, utilities paid!
- Walk to SoCo restaurant, shopping district, and Town Lake. Studio flat \$495, 1 bedroom \$700. 2 bedroom \$799. Huge 3 bedroom \$910.
- 4th and Colorado, warehouse district flat, \$910

SOUTH CENTRAL

- Warehouse-style apartments, concrete floor, 1 bedroom \$539, 2 bedroom \$649, 4 bedroom \$999. Artist and musician friendly.
- Zilker Park on Hike & Bike Trail. Studio \$475, 1 bedroom, \$659. 2 bedroom, \$740 (large deck). 50ft. from entrance to trail.
- On Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail, 1 bedroom \$495, 2 bedroom \$595. Ceramic tile and free cable!
- Studio flat, Barton Springs/Lamar area, rare find ... \$480!
- Historic Travis Heights, 1 bedroom \$599, 2 bedroom \$650, \$99 Total Move In.



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	5th St.	6th St.
		West Ave.
Congress Ave.		
IH-35		

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472.9100

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FEATURED PROPERTIES

NORTH HOUSE FOR RENT
183 & 35 AREA, 3 BED \$700

SOUTH \$99 MOVE-IN, 1 BED \$480

SOUTH 2BED \$599 EZ TERMS \$99
STUDENT SPECIAL LOFT \$499

TRAVIS HEIGHTS TOWNHOME \$825, \$199 MOVES YOU IN

1X1 \$390 FURNISHED WITH BIG SCREEN, UT SHUTTLE, FREE INTERNET



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Enjoy apartment living in a residential neighborhood. Close to eateries, grocery stores, sports/health centers. Walk/bike/bus to campus.

Some to All Bills Paid

EFFs \$415-\$485

1/1 \$585 - two-story

1/1 \$575

1/1 \$625 - abp

Short-term Leases Available
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78704 - 2 bdrm Townhome \$699.
2/1 + Study \$720.

GREENBELT ACCESS - w/d incl.
1/1 \$585, 2/2 \$890.

SOUTH CONGRESS - Loft \$565,
1/1 \$475, 2/1.5 condo with free
cable \$875. All have w/d incl.

Enfield - Excellent location. Small property. 2/1 \$899. Water free!

Gated Community next to TOWN LAKE
Huge floor plan. Cable paid.
1/1 \$495, 2/2 \$595.

Vintage TRAVIS HEIGHTS
Neighborhood.
Cable paid. 1/1 \$450,
2 bdrm. townhome \$750.



LONESTAR LEASING

326-5757



1A - Beautiful big yard, huge pool and play yard. Recently remodeled 3BR, 3BA. Added private master. New price. \$369,500 Dana Dean MLS8011599



1A - Exceptional unit with maple cabinets, granite countertops, stainless appliances. Gated, wooded, serene property. \$155,000 Rebecca Freeman Popp MLS9027438



1B - Newly built in Tarrytown. 4BR, 4BA and 3Liv. Craftsman style with gourmet kitchen, beautiful hardwoods, 2 fireplaces. \$1,095,000 Francie Little MLS7569014



1B - Unique home features central atrium, chef's kitchen with granite countertops and Viking range, renovated 2002. Nila Williams MLS5806784



1B - Tarrytown 4BR, 3.5BA with separate guest house. 4th BR/upstairs apartment with separate entry. Owner/Agent. \$895,000 Gail Cocke MLS6176284



1B - Casual ranch-style on huge lot in Balcones Park. Big pool, generous rooms, baths and kitchen updated. \$799,500 Lilla Ezell MLS8019522



1B - Relax and entertain in the heart of Tarrytown. 3BR, 3BA and tons of windows! Park-like backyard. Living space galore. Martha Small MLS5225391



1B - Old West Austin 3BR, 2BA, 2Liv craftsman bungalow with 2nd story addition. Fireplace and sunroom in master. \$425,000 Anne Giles MLS6548398



1B - Large Tarrytown lot. Opportunity in a fabulous community. Lot $\pm 75' \times 120'$. Surrounded by newer custom homes. \$399,900 Simon Magnus MLS7045726



1B - Attention Investors. Tri-plex in Old West Austin. 2BR, 1BA cottage, 1BR, 1BA garage apartment & efficiency. \$395,000 Gail Cocke MLS4298357



1B - Two doll houses on one lot. 2BR, 1BA in front cottage & 1BR, 1BA in rear cottage with access from alley. \$349,900 Charlotte Lipscomb MLS6627689



1B - Wonderful opportunity to build your dream home in Old West Austin. Value is in the land. \$229,500 Nancy McCarroll MLS7534028



1N - 5BR, 3.5BA & 3Liv. Island kitchen open to family room with fireplace. Award-winning Round Rock Schools. \$419,800 Charlotte Lipscomb MLS7245828



1N - Stone one-story has wood & tile flooring, remodeled kitchen. Deck overlooks landscaped backyard. 4BR, 2BA. \$345,000 Kay Bieberdorf MLS9654283



4 - Hyde Park. 1940s One-story brick home completely updated with 3BR, 2BA, 2Liv, 2Din + 2-story 2BR, 1BA apartment. \$465,000 Suzanne Pringle MLS7547135

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4 - Updated 2BR, 2.5BA, 2Liv townhome-style near Hemphill Park. Spacious living with fireplace. Courtyard with fountain. \$389,000 Suzanne Pringle MLS8374254



4 - Downtown living at luxurious Towers of Town Lake condos ranging from \$270,396 to \$464,400. City and lake views. Kay Andrews



Area - True hi-rise living on the shores of Town Lake. 2BR, 2BA, roomy kitchen, open floor plan and 24 hour concierge. \$270,000 Joanne Senyk MLS6405808



8E - Limestone custom by Epiphany Homes on enormous cul-de-sac view lot in Davenport Ranch. 4BR, 4BA & 3Liv. \$849,900 Mark Moore MLS7645677



8W - 4BR, 4.5BA, 3Liv design built in 2003 with panoramic views on ± 1.9 acres in Eanes ISD. Hardwood floors. \$699,900 Liz Newell MLS8665524



8W - Beautiful traditional in preferred location in Lost Creek. 4BR, 3.5BA, updated paint, appliances and flooring. \$529,000 Nila Williams MLS1480684



8W - Zen Contemporary stucco 1-story. Maple and granite floors, dramatic black kitchen, walls of glass. \$399,000 Dana Dean MLS3598301



HD - Stucco and limestone Italian Villa, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2Liv, 2Din, porches, fire pit, 5+ gated acres. \$599,000 Betty Kuykendall MLS2174544



LS - Lake Travis home with unmatched amenities. Old World masterpiece in Costa Bella. 7BR, 8.5BA and 7Liv. \$6,500,000 Cindy Greenwood MLS7128416



W - Fabulous 4BR, 2BA stone home. Spacious kitchen with island. Lush backyard with wet weather creek. \$175,000 Phyllis Cartwright MLS4574368

CONTINUED 215
APT/CONDO TOWNHOME

SOUTHEAST IH35 DOWN TOWN ACCESS. 1/1, 600sqft \$449, \$399 total. 13mo lease ATX RELO 657-2314. yorkapartmentlocators.com

SOUTHEAST Most Bills Paid. Free Cable, H2O Paid. Small Complex, Metro, UT Shuttle. 1BR \$450, 2BR \$599. Apt Experts 416-8100

SOUTHEAST No Deposit & App Fee. Most Bills Paid, W/D consns. 1BD \$640, 2BD \$640 587-5090 greg@atxrelo.com

SOUTHEAST SE UT BUS, FREE CABLE. 1/1 \$445, gated access, pool john@atxrelo.com 659-5339

SOUTHWEST http://austincool.com 693-7231 SW luxury condo specs, hidden in the trees, views, garages

SOUTHWEST

ZILKER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

50ft from hike-and-bike trail!

HUGE STUDIO... \$475

1BDRM FLAT \$659* (*17ft. ceilings!)

2BDRM... \$740

Huge private decks, big dog friendly, mountain bike and swim!

TEAM LEASING
(512) 416-8333

SOUTHWEST #1 Southwest Austin living in Hill Country! 1/1... \$575, 2BDRM/2BA... \$700. Best Deal in Southwest! Call Team Leasing 416-8333.

SOUTHWEST \$0 deposit, fitness ctr, shops, w/d con, eff \$610, 1bd \$640, 2bd \$835, 3bd \$1085. 236-0002.

SOUTHWEST \$500 OFF! FREE IPOD & O DEP 2/2, 1109sqft FROM \$994- 512-659-5339 John ATX Relo

SOUTHWEST 1 bdrm \$495, 2 bdrm \$660, 3 bdrm \$894, pool, Mopac access Call Chris Bee, agent 512-293-7737 or visit www.apartmentsfirst.com

SOUTHWEST 1.5 Mos. Free, near park/downtown, pet ok, 1bd \$648, 2bd \$910, avig-nonrealty.com, 236-0002.

SOUTHWEST 2/2- 1025 sqft. \$725/month. W/D consns., \$300 off 1st month. ATX 587-5090 greg@atxrelo.com

SOUTHWEST 3/2 \$760. \$0 dep. \$0 app. Only 4yrs old. Major employee discount. john@atxrelo.com 659-5339

SOUTHWEST New Luxury Apts. Hill Country Views. 1/1 \$775, 2/2's starting @ \$929. 587-5090 greg@atxrelo.com

SOUTHWEST Small community, convenient to everything. 1/1 \$529, 2/2 \$700. 587-5090 greg@atxrelo.com

SOUTHWEST On Zilker Greenbelt. Unique 3-story townhouse w/private garage entry, \$980. Call Team Leasing, 416-8333.

SOUTHWEST Westlake Hills. Loft-style one-bedroom w/ study. Stacked W/D Conn, walk-in closets, vaulted ceilings. Close to schools & shopping. Available NOW. \$750. Call The Taylor Company, Inc. 512-481-8600.

220
DUPLEX/HOUSES

CENTRAL Lamar/And. Ln., Lrg 2/1 Dup, w/d, new contemp design, open living/dining/ kitchen area w/sliding walls, concrete floors & stainless counters, fenced, pets ok, private, 2000 AIA Tour, avail 01/06, \$1375, 1207 Taulbee Ln.,(512)217-8635

BANDERA Horse facility in the Bandera area. Thirty-eight acres just North of Bandera on Farm Road 2828. Excellent complete equine facility that includes a large master home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Also includes a managers house with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Facility includes a full working half mile exercise racing track with a four horse starting gate, two horse barns with a total of 40+ covered stalls and six equipment rooms, four wash stalls, one-four horse and one-six horse exercise wheels. Also includes two outside covered stalls, two small and four large turn out pastures.

Facility can accommodate up to 42 stalled horses and up to 60 turn out horses. Space can be leased as whole or part, based on needs. Call 830-589-7278 or 830-796-5349 to set up appointment.

CENTRAL 28' motorhome in Pecan Grove, deck, storage/workshop. Walk to Zilker Park, Whole Foods. \$12,950 (lot rent w/all utilities \$340) 294-7559

CENTRAL

Properties for Lease

- 3412 Duval

2-1 \$1795 Available NOW

- 415 W. 32nd. 2-1 \$995

Available January
METRO REALTY
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CENTRAL 1/1,1hdwds, 525sf, heat/ac, pets ok, basic cab. inc., 1 pers only,\$695+dep.

CENTRAL 3 br,1.5 ba, 2 liv, study/laundry, carport, patio, huge trees, corner lot, real fireplace, central air and heat, ceiling fans, 1500 sq ft. All new paint, carpet & tile. 5 min to UT, 1200/mo,600 deposit. 784-0787

CENTRAL REDUCED!!!! Very clean, remodeled 2-1, 4-plex, yard, great location, 2013 Cullen (Justin/Burnet), actual W&D,new tile/paint/bathroom vanity/fans; rent \$699/month CALL Trenton Cox 779-7253

CENTRAL 1131 Salina, close to downtown. 3/2, recently re-modeled, new countertops and fixtures. Ceramic tile, \$850. Call, MRG - 443-2526.

CENTRAL garage apt. 1 block from bus line. Hardwood floors, new efficiency kitchen. \$600/mo. includes electric, water, & gas bills. Katy - 698.2605 or email kathyfendrich@hotmail.com

CENTRAL

Properties for Lease

- 9000 Mountain Ridge 3-2.5 \$995 Avail. NOW!
- 1003 E. 45th 3-1 \$1295
- 709 Graham 1-1 \$695

METRO REALTY
479-1300
www.utmetro.com

CENTRAL 3-2 with stained concrete floors on culdesac. Minutes from UT & downtown. Garage for cars or studio, fenced backyard, and low rent for what you get. Central AC/heat. \$1100 a month. Call Lisa Munoz. Owner/Agent at 293-5551.

CENTRAL Travis Heights 3-1 + large bonus room & sun room, skylights, wood/marble floors, fence, w/d provided. Available now. \$1750/\$1000 deposit. 894-0619

CENTRAL Travis H.sec. sy, 2in blinds,storage,bus st KaraKay Skaggs KW 470-8855

CENTRAL 3-2 close to town. 3 miles to UT, walk to Target, grocery, & breakfast tacos. Large 2nd living room with lots of windows. Big kitchen, garage, outdoor brick bar-b-que pit & more. Recent double pane windows & central AC/heat for low bills & energy efficiency. \$1220 a month. Call Lisa Munoz, Owner/Agent at 293-5551.

CENTRAL 1200 A Crestwood 2/2 duplex, CACH, fenced shady yard, recent carpet/ paint,close to UT/DWNTWN \$850/mo. 497-5592

CENTRAL (4bed/2ba)avail now. New remodel. Call 512-535-4023. 1099/mo low deposit

CENTRAL \$***\$500 MOVE IN BONUS***1713 Brentwood, dplx, cool, funky, \$1045, 3 bed/2ba with Wa/Dry, 1600 sqft. Call Terry, Realtor, 512-789-8064

CENTRAL Quiet complex in old Austin residential neighborhood. 650 sf 1/1. CACH, Walk-in Closet. Paid Water. On-site Pool & Laundry. \$625. 451-0414.

CENTRAL Rosedale duplex: 1103-B W. 39th 1/2. 2/1, \$1025. Fenced yd, CACH, free W/D & DW. New paint, carpet. No common walls, vaulted ceiling. Near Seton, CMarket. Pets OK. 797-5224. http://www.novatus.net

CENTRAL TERRYTOWN - Large 2/1, 989 sf. Faux wood floors, Built-in bookshelf & brick accent walls in living room. Lots of Closet Space. Paid Gas & Cable. On-site Laundry & Pool. \$895. 451-0414

CENTRAL HOLIDAY SPECIAL 4bdrm, 2.5 ba house, near campus, \$1150,no pets, great 4 roomates, 636-2675

CENTRAL SOCO Rustic 2-1 duplex hardwoods CACH garage 409B E. Annie \$850 Call PMT Realtors 476-2673

CENTRAL Hyde Park - Cozy 1 BR w/ 2 Patios, Vaulted Ceilings, Stained Concrete Floors. CACH, Paid Water. CACH. 450 sf. 4205 Speedway. \$575. 451-0414

CENTRAL 1211 E. 52nd St. 2/1, hrdwds. \$750/mo. Most util pd. Avail Jan. 1st. Lease/ deposit. Call 472-1077

CENTRAL 4 BR 1 bath home 2321 Newfield Move-in NOW!!! All pets WELCOME Large fenced yard with nice deck. \$1250 Call PMT Broker 476-2673.

CENTRAL 608 B Kawnee 2-1-1 CACH, W/D connect, fenced and maintained yard \$650. www.cbimanagement.com 658-9493.

CENTRAL 78704: 2/1's dplx \$725. & \$825 carport, fncd yrd both. 1/1 \$595 cble pd, sm. cmplx. pets ok. 627-6374

CENTRAL

WelcomeHomeLeasing.com
Laura Croteau, Realtor
554-2920 cell

- **1303 BROADMOOR-** by 51st/135- Big remodeled 3 BD & roof. 3 zoned CACH! W/D, fridge, gas stove, DW, fans everywhere, gas FP in huge party room, covered patio, giant fenced yard. \$1350
- **934 E. 54th STREET -** by 51st/Airport. Cool stone house. Hardwoods, new fridge, stove, DW, new stacked W/D. Detached 1 car stone garage. 10' ceilings. New CACH, on-demand water heater. \$1,350 rent.
- **5207 ROBINSDALE LANE-** off east 51st . Large, 3/2/2 house with new carpet, new ceramic tile floors, CACH, fresh interior paint, new roof, stainless steel fridge & gas stove, new DW, W/D consns. Huge fenced yard. \$1,300.
- **903 EAST OLTORF -**

TRAVIS HEIGHTS - Spacious 2 story condo. West side of IH-35. 3 large BDs, 2.5 BTHs, 2 living, 2 dining, breakfast bar, private patio, Pool! New berber carpet, CACH, fridge, stove, DW. Covered parking inside security gates. \$1,000.

CENTRAL 1176 Ridgeway, \$***\$250 Move In Bonus. *House w/large lot. East Austin Charmer, backs to small greenbelt. Hrdwds throughout. 2Bd/1Ba, approx 700 SqFt. Awesome location, ACC, UT & dwtn. 1176 Ridgeway, \$699/mo, \$400 Dep, \$35 App Fee, Terry, Realtor, 512-789-8064

CENTRAL EAST Great 2 or 3/1.5 tree shaded house. French Place. W/D, huge garage, 18 Kern Ramble, \$1195 785-9757 or 472-5595

CENTRAL Farm house in the City. 2/1, lrg wooded fenced yard, ideal for dogs, lrg covered patio, W/D incld. 901 Stobaugh. \$1100. 220-0786

CENTRAL Campus -2000 Nueces. Just two blocks from Guadalupe! 1 Bedroom w/ Loft or 2/2 w/ Large Balcony, Ceiling Fans, Walk-in Closet. Paid Water & Trash. January Move-in. 451-0414

CENTRAL Awesome downtown 2-2 Duplex Hardwoods CACH 1705 West Ave. \$950 Call PMT Realtors 476-2673

CENTRAL Why pay rent? When you may be able to own a home instead? You can own a home - 3 bedroom, 2 baths, and 2 car garage worth \$150,000 and pay about the same as a 2 bedroom apartment! Get more for your money act now while interest rates are still low!

Call Eddie Reynolds today: 512-921-9100

CENTRAL Why rent? Mixed use project in North Loop Neighborhood. Four ground level commercial units (900-1300sf) & four second story residential units (1100-1800 sf). Must see! www.satsuma53.com For more info, call 791-1584 Roland, agent.

DRIPPING SPRINGS Country Cabin 750/mo. 2bd/1bth/wd. Porch w/ swing. Vaulted ceilings. 2 1/2 acres. Pets ok. conscious and friendly tenants please. Kelly 512-989-3876.

DRIPPING SPRINGS Cypress creek cottage, stone and cedar 2-2 1800sqft on 4.4 acres, near Hamilton Pool, nature lover's delight. DSISD, stairway down limestone bluff to beautiful deck on boulder, overlooking small waterfall on Cypress Creek. \$1800. 830-825-3900, or 956-992-0554.

EAST Manor/51st. 4 Bedroom 2 Baths. 5413 Darlington \$900/\$450 dep 894-0619

LAKE SOUTH Apache Shores Home, Lake Austin Access, 2-2, Decks, 1 acre. Pets OK, Avail 1/1/06, \$990 565-1608

METRO

EANES PROPERTIES

North

- **\$139-A Ceberry Dr. Great NC location duplex. 4 BD, 2.5 Bath. 1 car garage. Fenced yard. \$1150 mth.**

South

- **Circle C Beauty. Single Story 3 BD, 2 Bath home. Wood and tile flooring. Comes with Fridge, sprinkler sys, and W/D. \$1500 on 18 month lease. \$1550 on year lease.**

Roxbury.

- **Brand new home in Olympic Heights. 2 story, 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths. 2 Living Areas. Lots of windows. Fenced Yard. Neighborhood Pool. \$1200 mth 2 FREE Weeks Rent w/Nov. 15th move in or sooner.**

BUDA

- **2004 Built Home. 3 BDs, 2.5 Baths. Sprinkler system, wood blinds, large kitchen. Great community. Close to I-35 and new Cabelas.**

Ready Now. \$1295 mth. 259 Clarence Ct.

Look under Property for Lease at http://www.EanesProperties.com for photos 263-7333 or 293-0276

NORTH 2000 sq, deck, 4 bdr/2 bth, close to pool/park/i-35/mopac, \$1395 ph 512-796-2388

NORTH Great 3br/2ba, +office in Wells Branch,2000 sqft.Park,pool.Privyard.\$1250/m o. Ewa \$12/17-8586 (own/ag)Prudential

NORTH 3/2, in great area, lease or purchase, move in today, like new. \$1195 www.yourark.com 917-0061

NORTH 8516 Shenandoah, 3/2, 1 story house, 2 car garage, covered patio, new carpet & paint, \$1050, 1474-1470 Beck & Co.

NORTH 9223 Singing Quail 3/2 with 2 car garage, end unit, 1,500sqft., cathedral ceilings, master down,\$895. Call MRG (512) 443-2526.

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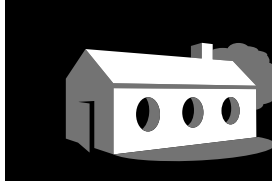
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by James Heffley, Ph.D.

Q. I have type 2 diabetes and the high triglyceride level that often goes with it. My doctor had first recommended dietary changes, but I didn't stay with the diet, so they did not work. Then he prescribed Tricor but recently took me off Tricor and put me on fish oil. Why might he make that change, and does fish oil work as well as Tricor to reduce triglycerides?

A. There is strong scientific evidence from human and animal research that omega-3 fatty acids from fish oil supplements (eicosapentaenoic and docosahexaenoic acids, usually abbreviated EPA and DHA) reduce blood triglyceride levels by as much as 40%. This is comparable to the results found with prescription medications such as Tricor. Although benefits are found with EPA/DHA doses as small as 2 grams per day, the best results are found with doses of 4 grams per day, which requires taking five capsules or more daily. This amount will reliably produce a fishy "burp" that is more unpleasant to some people than others. If it threatens to keep you from continuing to take the fish oil supplement, try taking the capsules at bedtime. You will still burp the fishy taste but will probably sleep right on through it.

You obviously have an astute physician who is aware of the advantage of fish oil over Tricor. Both can lower triglyceride level, and both can raise HDL ("good") cholesterol levels. The bonus from fish oil is that the DHA in fish oil can also help keep your blood sugar under control, something that Tricor does not do. All by itself, normalizing blood sugar goes a long way toward normalizing triglyceride level. Combining the anti-diabetic activity of DHA and the triglyceride lowering action of EPA seems to be a winning combination.

Ordinarily, combining nutritional supplements with drug therapy is beneficial or at least has no effect on outcome. Such is not the case with omega-3 fatty acids and Tricor. More research is needed, but at present it appears that Tricor affects the balance of the omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, which already tends to be unbalanced toward too much omega-6 and too little omega-3. If a choice between the two therapies is necessary, the omega-3 fatty acid supplement, with a two-pronged approach to the problem, seems to have the advantage.

In addition to lowering triglyceride and blood sugar levels, omega-3 fatty acid supplements provide a variety of beneficial "side effects." Several studies report that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of developing breast, colon, or prostate cancer; have anti-inflammatory effects that will benefit those who suffer with asthma, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and other inflammatory conditions; and may help with depression and anger management. This broad spectrum of beneficial activity, with so many conditions being affected by omega-3 fatty acids, indicates that for far too long we have ignored the effects of the quality of fat in our diets and concentrated only on the effect of the amount of fat. While it may be necessary because of reduced physical activity to modify our calorie intake, and with it fat intake, we should be careful to maintain an adequate amount and sensible balance of the important essential fatty acids.

James Heffley, Ph.D., is a certified clinical nutritionist. The information he provides is for educational use only. If you believe you have a medical problem, see your physician.

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Free will ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for Dec. 30 to Jan. 6

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Stage magician David Copperfield made an intriguing announcement recently. He told the German magazine *Galore* that in his next show, he will use magic to make a woman pregnant – without touching her. That’s similar to the kind of mojo you will possess in 2006, Capricorn. It’s true that your success in the past has usually come from your pragmatic intelligence, organizational ability, and thoroughness. But in the coming months you will also have a talent for conjuring beautiful illusions that ultimately become very real.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Every person you know has a different idea about who you are, and none of those notions is exactly the same as the image you have of yourself. In other words, there are hundreds of unauthorized versions of you in addition to the one you believe in. Usually you don’t have much power to control this, but that could change in 2006. More than at any other previous time, you’ll have a knack for bringing public opinion into alignment with your own picture of yourself. Your reputation may even come to closely resemble the person you really are.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): I encourage you to climb trees in 2006, Pisces. I also suggest that you regularly look down at the world from mountaintops and skyscrapers and flying dreams. Get above it all, in other words. Give yourself the pleasure of gazing from vistas that inspire you to meditate on the really big picture. You might also consider expanding your consciousness now and then if you do so in a disciplined, careful, and responsible way. (Getting high on a mix of street meth with strangers at 3am is not what I mean.) Your magical symbol for the year is a golden ladder.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): I’m hoping that in 2006 you will work your ass off with great ingenuity – not just at your job, but in every area of your life. Do you have it in you to break all your previous records for brilliant diligence? Are you willing to summon fierce discipline and crafty willpower not only to pump up your career ambitions but also to refine your approach to intimacy and increase your command over your own emotions? Are you finally ready to master all the excruciating but crucial details you’ve always avoided? If so, you could generate years’ worth of blessings.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Some religious traditions preach the doctrine that desire is a major obstacle to enlightenment. To escape from the predicament of your suffering, they insist, you must overcome all of your yearning. But Tantric scholar Daniel Odier believes this dogma is a delusion. In his book *Desire: The Tantric Path to Awakening*, he says desire should be at the heart of spiritual practice. Not all longings are equally sacred, of course: Fantasies about winning the lottery or seeing an adversary punished are not on a par with wanting to expand your capacity to bestow blessings and give love. In 2006, Taurus, consider the possibility that Odier is right. Try out the hypothesis that the most spiritual thing you can do is cultivate high-minded yearnings.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): The *Simpsons* TV show has made the leap to the Arab world. Broadcast by satellite from Dubai, it reaches a big audience in the Middle East. A few transformations were necessary, however. In accordance with Islamic law, the man of the house doesn’t drink beer or eat pork. Instead, he enjoys soda and beef sausages. His name is Omar instead of Homer, and he doesn’t frequent quality bars or befriend scruffy derelicts as he does in the American version of the show. On the other hand, son Bart (now called Badr) is still a brat. Omar is as lazy as Homer, and, like the original, works at a nuclear power facility. I mention this, Gemini, because it’s a good analogue for your possible future. In 2006, you will have the power and opportunity to translate something you’re good at into a brand-new sphere.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): There’s no delicate way to say this, so please stop reading and come back next week if you’re offended by graphic references to pleasure. According to my analysis of the long-term astrological omens, you’re on tap to experience more orgasms in 2006 than you have in any previous year. On average, your climaxes are also likely to be longer and more intense. Other varieties of bliss, rapture, and joy will probably occur at record levels, as well. Think you can handle it?

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Recently someone asked me, “What do you look for in an ally, Rob?” Here’s what I said: “I favor people who take responsibility for their unripe qualities and don’t spew their undigested angst on me when they’re feeling low.” I think this approach should become a priority for you, Leo. In 2006, you will have striking opportunities to upgrade your relationship to relationships. One of the best ways to do that is to give special preference to connections with emotionally intelligent people who work hard to transmute their own darkness.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): In 2006, you will have greatest success if you approach every experience as a student. Your ability to experience happiness will expand if you re-ignite your love of learning and become perpetually ablaze with curiosity. You know that old expression “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear”? I suggest you make yourself ready, because a crucial teacher is or will soon be in your vicinity. Here’s another key piece of advice, courtesy of J. Bronowski: “It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies; they are not here to worship what is known, but to question it.”

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): In a few weeks, economist Benjamin Bernanke will begin serving as the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, becoming the most important person in setting America’s monetary policy. Though news reports typically describe him as cautious and scholarly, he has promised to prevent deflation by any means necessary – even by printing lots of extra money and throwing it out of helicopters. If that occurs in the coming months, members of your sign will no doubt be in the right places at the right times to gather up disproportionately large shares of those dollars floating down from above. The astrological omens suggest that 2006 will be a time of financial luck for Librans of every nationality. If you’re ever going to benefit from a windfall, it’ll be this year.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): In my homeland of Northern California, four of the most overused terms are “juicy,” “sacred,” “radical,” and “wild.” I haven’t made a scientific study, but I’d guess that maybe 30% of all workshops and self-help books originating in this part of the world have at least one of those words in their titles. As a connoisseur of language, I naturally try to avoid them myself. Nevertheless, your long-term astrological omens demand that I invoke them to describe your destiny. In fact, I’m duty-bound to predict that 2006 will be the Year of Juicy Sacred Radical Wildness for you Scorpios. Do your best, please, to express the primal potency of these words.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): A few weeks ago, a group of people in the Netherlands reserved a large hall in hopes of breaking the world record for falling dominoes. Their goal was to set up and then topple 4,321,000 of the rectangular black tiles. While they were working, a sparrow flew in an open window and accidentally knocked over 23,000 pieces. It was only a temporary setback, however. The record-seekers restored the prematurely fallen pieces and ultimately achieved their goal. I predict that this vignette will have a metaphorical similarity to your destiny in 2006. If you assign yourself an epic yet fun goal (which I hope you will), you’ll probably experience an unforeseen interruption but will prevail in the end. (p.s. Don’t do anything like what the Dutch people did, which was shoot the bird.)

Call Rob Breznsy for your expanded weekly horoscope at 900/950-7700. \$1.99/min • 18 and over Touch-tone phone required • Check out Rob’s Web site at www.freewillastrology.com.

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car TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

PRESSURE IS ON IN TIRE DEBATE

Dear Tom and Ray:

When looking for the correct tire pressure, you say to check the recommendation by the manufacturer of the car, not the manufacturer of the tire. But how does the car manufacturer know what kind of tires I bought? I have no idea what kind of tires came with a '98 Volvo, but I'm pretty sure I haven't bought that type. Wouldn't the tire manufacturer know better what the pressure should be for its specific tire? Please clarify. I get different answers from different mechanics.

— Thomas

TOM: Listen to the car manufacturer, Thomas.

RAY: When a manufacturer designs a car, it designs it for a certain-size tire. And even when you replace your tires later on, the tire SIZE should be the same. That's what the pressure recommendation is based on.

TOM: So, let's say your 1998 Volvo came with 195/60R15s. That means that Volvo designed the car for a tire with a tread that's 195 mm wide, an aspect ratio (the height of the sidewall) of 60% of the tread width, a radial design (the R), and a wheel size of 15 inches. When Volvo recommends a tire pressure, it's designed to give you the best balance of safety, handling, comfort, and fuel economy — for that car, with that size tire.

RAY: Does it matter if you replace your Michelins with Goodyears? Or if you switch from an all-season to a summer tire, or a tire with a different tread pattern? Not really, as long as the tire's basic specifications are the same. Presumably, when you replaced the tires on your Volvo, the mechanic or tire salesman knew enough to sell you correctly sized tires.

TOM: Now, there is a little wiggle room. If you get a slightly wider tire, or a slightly thinner tire — say 10 or even 20 mm in either direction — the carmaker's recommendation is still going to be close enough. In fact, if you buy winter tires, it's often advisable to get a slightly narrower tire to help cut through the snow.

RAY: But if you go way off the ranch and replace a 195/75 tire with a 235/50 tire, for example, then you're on your own. Not only will extra-wide tires put additional pressure on your bearings and steering components, but the correct pressure is now a matter of guesswork.

TOM: And by the way, you should never use (or exceed) the pressure number listed on the sidewall of the tire. That's not the recommended tire pressure. That's the maximum pressure that the tire can take before it's in danger of exploding. If you fill your tires to that amount of pressure, not only will your car handle like a basketball, but your head will bounce off the ceiling every time you hit a bump.

RAY: So your best bet is to stick to, or very close to, the car manufacturer's size recommendation when replacing your tires. If you do that, the manufacturer's pressure recommendation will always be a good guideline. That means if the local tire shop says, "We don't have your size in stock, but these bulldozer tires'll be even better," go somewhere else.

What is the most cost-effective way to buy a car? Tom and Ray hash it all out in their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

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AUSTIN TEXAS

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CONTINUED 545 LEGAL NOTICES

for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of bids.

Copies of plans and specifications may be obtained from the **TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE**, A refundable deposit of **\$25.00** in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check

payable to "Travis County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is issued. **The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening.** Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Travis County Purchasing Office. In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in Exhibit 1.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 A.M., CST, January 4, 2006 AT THE TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE, 314 WEST 11TH STREET, SUITE 400, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive an informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

NOTICE

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. E-Courtroom Project Component and Implementation Services, RFP P060081-LC
Opens: January 18, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE/SITE SURVEY WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 5, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger

Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

NOTICE OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. HVAC Units - Gault Building, IFB B060035-NB
Opens: January 17, 2006 @ 10:30 a.m.
2. Water Source Heat Pumps, IFB B060074-NB
Opens: January 17, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400 P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the

Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges

for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below; And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #231

**8227 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78753**

(512) 833-0855

Tuesday, January 17, 2006 @ 10:00 A.M.

735 Pamela Reynosa - household goods, furniture, appliances
756 Billy Jack Phillips - household goods
815 Barbara Villarreal - household goods, furniture, boxes
813 Danielle Walker - household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances
936 Kenneth Rich - household goods, boxes
1020 Jessica Chagolla - household goods, boxes
1205 Ollie Harper - household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances
1405 Michael Alexander - household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods
1606 Alan Avila - household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods
1615 Tracy Meadows - household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances

Uncle Bob's #276

**1251 County Road 170
Round Rock, TX 78664**

(512) 310-0279

Tuesday, January 17, 2006 @ 11:00 A.M.

2102 Amalia Barrera - household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, tv-stereo equip.
2402 Jason Dillard - household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, tv-stereo equip., office equip., office machines, landscaping equip., acct records
2316 Paul Gocher - household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods
2405 Lisa Tolfa - household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, tv-stereo equip., office machines
3107 Rodolfo Nunez - household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, tv-stereo equip.

4422 Sandy E. Johnson - household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, tv-stereo equip.
5119 Jimeko Dupree - freezer, box, table
5128 David Stanley - household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, acct. records, toys
5223 Mamie Hurtado - household goods, furniture, boxes
5318 Melissa Thompson - boxes
5335 Lisa Medrano - household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, tv-stereo equip.
7105 Mindy Castillo - household goods, furniture, boxes, tv-stereo equip.
8117 Stacy Rodriguez - household goods, boxes, tools

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES THE VEHICLES DESCRIBED BELOW HAVE BEEN DECLARED ABANDONED IN TRAVIS COUNTY, AND ARE LOCATED AT THE FACILITIES LISTED.

THE OWNER OR LIEN HOLDER HAS THE RIGHT TO RECLAIM THE VEHICLE NO LATER THAN THE 20TH DAY AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE. UPON PAYMENT OF ALL TOWING, PRESERVATION AND STORAGE CHARGES RESULTING FROM PLACING THE VEHICLE IN CUSTODY OR GARAGEKEEPER'S CHARGES. FAILURE OF THE OWNER OR LIEN HOLDER TO RECLAIM THE VEHICLE WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED CONSTITUTES A WAIVER BY THE OWNER AND LIEN HOLDER OF ALL RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST IN THE VEHICLE AND THEIR CONSENT TO THE SALE OF THE ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 683.011 AND 683.012 et. sec., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE. ANY OF THE VEHICLES LISTED BELOW WHICH ARE NOT RECLAIMED DURING THE TIME PROVIDED WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION AS SCHEDULED BELOW.

GREG HAMILTON, SHERIFF
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: RICK PATINO, DEPUTY II, IMPOUNDS

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1988 HONDA ACCORD UNK. LP VIN. 1HGCA5630JA136957

1998 FORD VAN MX. LP 112 TLM VIN. 2FMDA5149WB92435

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property code, A-AUSTIN STORAGE CENTER, 1805 Frontier Valley Dr. Austin, TX. 78741, will hold a public auction of property to be sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.

Sale will be at 10:00 AM on, Tuesday, Jan 17th, 2006 at the above address.

Auction will be to the highest bidder. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Complete removal of contents will be required on the day of auction. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenants:

Ricky Arocha: tools & equipment
Joe Delgado: Misc. furniture
David Patterson: Furniture, CDs, Misc.
Juanita Perales: Furniture
Dawn Sedlor: Furniture
Kathy Vasquez: Furniture and toys
Belinda Howard: Misc Clothing
Don Estrada: Furniture
Juan Ortiz: Clothing
Angel Santillan: Furn. Clothing
Julie Stroud: Furniture
Kathey Trujillo: Washer
Norma J. McDavid: Clothing
Griselda Rodriguez: Furn. Misc. house-hold goods

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF TRAVIS**

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION issued by the clerk of the Justice of the Peace, Precinct #One in and for TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, October 25, 2005, in caused numbered 010261 styled DAVIS, COFFY SR. versus DEXTER, LEE. On a judgment rendered against Dexter, Lee at 15704 FM 969, Austin Texas 78724. I did on November 16, 2005 at 01:59 PM. levy upon property of Dexter, Lee the following described real property TO WIT:

1. 5.Acre of the ABS-5-SUR-33 BURLESON J ACR 55.710 PROPERTY ON 15704 fm 969 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78724.
On January 3, 2006 being the first Tuesday of the month between the Hours 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM beginning at 10:00 AM. At the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas. I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, ownership and interest of in and to the above-described property.

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AV0112 POUND SALE
NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY. THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE. I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

**JANUARY 12, 2006 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN
POLICE DEPT., 220 RALPH ABLANEDO,
AUSTIN, TX 78748**

1. 053440643	1998 DODG	PK	7JZD15	TX	1B7HC13Y5WJ177194
2. 055064352	1988 CHEV	2DR	X42RYX	TX	1G1LV14W2JE613544
3. 055064362	1991 MERC	4DR	X688BL	TX	2MEPM36X7MB622073
4. 055064364	1985 BUIC	4DR	VWD69D	TX	1G4BP69Y3FX413395
5. 055064410	1985 VOLV	4DR	B34JMC	TX	VY1AX474X1090951
6. 055064414	1991 MERC	SW	N25NNC	TX	2MECM79F6MX619757
7. 055064416	1985 VOLK	4DR	B35WNJ	TX	VWVG6A164FW594144
8. 055064559	1983 CHEV	VN	M67XWX	TX	1GBDN19Z1PB152370
9. 055064603	1991 TOYT	2DR	D01BSG	TX	JT2ST87F9M0089977
10. 055064607	1981 CHEV	PK	6HLJ42	TX	1GCC14H5B2173563
11. 055064644	1989 CHEV	4DR	S36ZGN	TX	3X69K9M247568
12. 055064794	1993 FORD	4DR	W17MLW	TX	1FALP5242PA326494
13. 055064828	1977 GMC	PK	6GTR81	TX	TCL447B520769
14. 055064835	1990 ISUZ	PK	4JC8B3	TX	JAACL16E7L7235155
15. 055064838	1991 HOND	4DR	H78WFC	TX	1HGC87653MA075621
16. 055064840	1973 OPEN	VN	5DND48	TX	CGY253U111626
17. 055064842	1994 NISS	4DR	X62DCV	TX	1N4EB316X232397
18. 055064844	1980 VOLK	2DR	XHJ44C	TX	5JA0032660
19. 055064851	UNK UNK	BT	UNK	UNK	UNK UNK
20. 055064854	1997 PONT	4DR	S81WFK	TX	1G2NE52TQVC740668
21. 055064859	1986 MAZD	CP	BWH15Z	TX	JM1B73222G0143087
22. 055064866	1987 NISS	4DR	751BXJ	TX	JN1PB2518HU017903
23. 055064867	1982 VOLV	SW	B87VSP	TX	VY1AX4955C1416138
24. 055064872	1991 GEO	4DR	F25JZH	TX	1Y1SK5460MZ021345
25. 055064875	1992 NISS	4DR	V90PSJ	TX	JN1FU21P4NX911326
26. 055064883	1987 NISS	2DR	ZXY88D	TX	JN1PB2255HU507633
27. 055065280	1992 PLYM	VN	ZXT75L	TX	2P4GH4533NR748462
28. 055065285	1987 FORD	4DR	P77BSS	TX	1FABP52U11HA247864
29. 055065288	1997 JEEP	LL	657BXJ	TX	1J4FX8S86VC510586
30. 055065290	1986 BUIC	4DR	S98LZJ	TX	1G4AL19X2G6444095
31. 055065294	1984 CHEV	2DR	WBP39Z	TX	1G1AP87H1EL157612
32. 055065296	1989 CHEV	4DR	XKB16T	TX	1G1BN51E2KR112064
33. 055065317	1995 CHEV	2DR	RTZ40V	TX	1G1LV1542SY167697
34. 055065320	1989 LINC	4DR	X80CYK	TX	1LNB8M1FXKY606128
35. 055065321	1987 FORD	2DR	XZ83XV	TX	1FABP45E8HF183016
36. 055065565	1988 FORD	LL	TFG86N	TX	1FMCU14T3JUD11441
37. 055065569	1997 HYUN	4DR	ZVX46M	TX	KMHCF24F1VU828348
38. 055065830	1993 MITS	2DR	NAV731	LA	JA3CB820C5PZ029009
39. 055065870	1989 CHRY	4DR	X89YKZ	TX	1C3BC4638KD413857
40. 055065875	1996 KIA	4DR	XGB94H	TX	KNAFA1252T5250821
41. 055065883	1987 FORD	LL	5VNC34	TX	1FMCU12T8HUC97078
42. 055065887	1997 CHEV	2DR	S30LGS	TX	3G1JC124XVS843872
43. 055066021	1988 SUBA	4DR	769VKV	TX	JF1AC42B1JB222348
44. 055066100	1996 DODG	PK	1LGD84	TX	3B7HC13Y8TG134546

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2006 - Finalists will rehearse, and
appear in concerts at the UT
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Vocalist) will be awarded a
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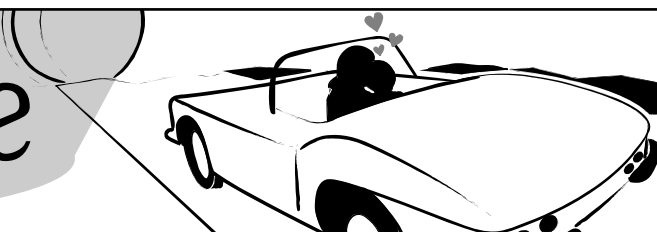
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* Minimum age to enter competition is 16. Under 18 must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian. This is not Karaoke or Open Mic. Competitors will be expected to commit to a rehearsal and performance schedule. Competition schedule, actual prizes awarded, etc., are contingent upon availability, level of response, number of Competitors that receive Qualifying Scores, etc. See Competition Terms, Rules & Conditions at JavaCatsLive.com for further information. Photo shown above is a dramatization.

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Lovers Lane



women SEEKING men

FUNGI ISO CYANOBACTERIUM
For mutualistic association. Enjoy outdoors. Evolve at a constant rate. Be Practical as well as Generous. Know the joy of Living is his who has the Heart to Demand it. **EllenOIR, 24, #115137**

INTRODUCING....
New to the area. New meaning I haven't had a chance to experience Austin. I want to meet a great guy that I can goof off w/and show me around. **doesntneedu, 19, #115133**

NO SNAPPY TITLE
Overweight girl, pretty, loves sex, movies, music, fishing, and drinking. Interests range widely. Looking for someone I connect with. It's hard to squeeze my personality into a tiny paragraph. **Andreamgirl3, 21, #115103**

LITTLE BIT CRAZY
Apparently I tell a great story, and I am intelligent, alternately shy and vivacious, generally nice. So, tell me a fun story and I'll return another with a genuine laugh! **innerprincess, 28, #115050**

UNIQUE ATTRACTIVE WOMAN
I'm a young fun loving girl who is ready to be in a relationship with a guy who is truly genuine. I am a creative person who enjoys making art. **whosthatlady, 18, #115048**

BISCUTSNGRAVY
I'm a hopeless romantic, looking for someone to break the law with lets go rob a bank together hehe sound like fun? I also legal things as well. **lucyxinthexsky, 19, #115045**

SMART. SEXY. FUN.
One outgoing, fun-loving, modern girl. I love learing, people, travel, the arts & variety. Routine will wittle away my smile. Learning is a charge. A smart man is a wicked turn on. **CurlySmart, 33, #114970**

HELLO TEXAS!
Looking for a man between 45-52 to help me learn my way about Austin! I am outgoing, low maintenance, love dancing, have all my own teeth, quirky sense of humor. **Cookie, 47, #114957**

THINGS I LOVE
God, mountains, water, open range,

animals, thunderstorms, sunshine, good "herb", smiling eyes, music, road trips and you if you're the one. I'm young 49, pretty, natural blonde, tall, Christian, funny. **codyodyo, 49, #114955**

COUNTRY FRIED WHAT?
MOST SUPER CHICK you will EVER MEET!! New to Area Just looking for someone that loves trashy bars, loud music, beer, and good times. **dwn_n_entr_hell, 26, #114918**

GENIIOCI SEEKS SOULMATE
Single, free-spirited, fun/music loving, young in heart and body gal seeking friend/partner who can make me laugh; not one-night stands. I like to hike, dine out, cook, converse & travel. **GENIIOCI, 44, #114886**

RESPONSIBLE, EDUCATED, GEEKY
Healthy, active and adventurous. Novice foil fencer, dancer, camper. Like the finer things in life and to be spoiled, but like to keep things simple. Quality is better than quantity. **Tao_Belle, 26, #114872**

AIR INSPIRES FIRE
Honest, Active, Liberated, Peaceful, Knowledgeable Native seeks kind, humorous, gentle, emotionally mature, physically toned, communicative, two-legged being for friendship based on compassion and commitment to living with the violet flame. **MayanRose, 40, #114858**

THREE WORDS? IMPOSSIBLE
none of this matters. it is either there or it isn't. let's meet. **stacez, 26, #114850**

SEEKING MAN 4CONVERSATION
Looking for a man who knows the difference between living and surviving. Must meet stringent set of qualifications. **E_Bovary, 29, #101353**

men SEEKING women

DIAMOND IN RUFF!
I'm a widower of 6 months and it's time to get on with my life. Lover of life and hard work! Diehard romantic here. DDF and great health. Smoker. **Kitster, 56, #115149**

ABSRUDIST!
Great sense of humour. Culturally learned. Life is best lived w/a smile. Looking for relationship/someone to relax with after work. **halo00to14, 23, #115117**

CREATIVELY UNCONVENTIONAL...
I do things for my own reasons instead of popular convention or blind tradition. I admire a woman to whom appearance is a tool for self-expression. **opius, 59, #115115**

NINJA ODDLY ENUFE
hey austin people. i'm 22, 6'1 159lbs. i like pool, beer, music, and adventure. lets have fun, Grimm. **grimmepenny, 22, #115108**

LOST IN 70'S
I'm tired of bars, need a change. Looking for SWF 45-55, hippie-chick, average build. Must love animals. SWM 6', 180# considered nice looking. Work North Central Austin, live North Austin. **nekdooba, 55, #115032**

THADRIFTER2000
honesty seeks faithful for hiking, live music, camping, 4x4 in big grey monstertruck. no job?ok.just have ambition. im giving, faithful, love making

people laugh, its good for the soul. **thadrifter2000, 40, #115011**

FUNNY, LISTENER, GOOD
hey there, i'm looking to meet someone that is self aware, confident, beautiful, and real. i'm a guy who works hard, dreams big, and wants the best for everyone. **goodguy, 26, #115009**

COMPASSIONATELY CONFIDENT CUDDLE-GUY
looking for a woman that deserves what I have to offer to receive great treatment from a good guy...i love to laugh have fun and be with family and friends. **norgate5655, 28, #114985**

women SEEKING women

FEMALE FOR FEMALE
Im a all around cool person, interested in making new friends, or more. Im looking for a bi fem for friends possible relationship, 19-39 outgoing, someone who likes having fun! **afem4afem, 26, #115118**

SPONTANEOUS- FUN- CUTE
I am looking for womyn to date who are interested in being spoiled, pampered and satisfied. Prefer womyn 35-50 who are willing to let go and have a good time. **lvslacker, 42, #114988**

ATTRACTIVE FEM PROFESSIONAL
45 year old attractive fem professional seeks attractive fem, height/weight fairly proportionate, for fun and possible long-term relationship. No excessive drug, alcohol or mental health problems. **bambi1, 46, #114961**

PRETTY BI-CURIOSUS FREAK
I am looking for someone who can teach me new things. Let me be your guinea pig. I'm open to whatever. I'll behave, I promise. **XOXOXO. thaich-ick, 25, #114880**

BIG TEDDY BEAR
Looking for a person who is honest and cares about people. A person who can have a good time and not a drunk. Have been in along term relationship. **Pecosjohn, 52, #101343**

HONEST LOVABLE CUTE
I love nature and having a trustworthy, honest woman to share this with. I'm an adventurous person that loves spontaneity. Are you ready to start living? **lookn2love, 51, #101259**

where i work. Couldn't talk then, but would like to have a proper meeting? This is corny, but i had to try. **When: Sunday, Dec. 18. Where: at the door. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900146**

ANOTHER UNION @UNION?
You: In the lounge wearing a "Fight the Man" t-shirt Me: Blond with dimples who misplaced your # You shared your couch and a cookie- Wanna share mine? **When: Monday, Dec. 12. Where: UT Union- 2nd floor. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900145**

ACC RIVERSIDE SATURDAYS
I see you every Saturday morning looking so tall dark and handsome. Now that it is over maybe we can have some fun. Love Art History? **When: Saturday, Dec. 17. Where: ACC Riverside. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900144**

GROOVIN' AT SPEAKEASY
Dancing at Speakeasy 12/2. You:

austinchronicle.com/loverslane
VOICE RESPONSE: 520.547.4265

men SEEKING men

PLAYS WITH CARS
Lookin' for a masculine guy from mid 20's to mid 40's to get to know and hang out with in Round Rock. See online loverslane ad for more on me. **freshsteeds, 48, #115162**

OPEN, WORTH IT
Looking for friendship or dating. I like travel, dogs, Book People, South Congress Cafe, running, weekends with friends. Music? Andrea Bocelli, Kenny Chesney, Cher, George Bush is a baffoon. **Runner, 48, #114896**

PLAYFUL? LIVING CONSCIOUSLY?
See the rosy side of life first. I want to have hot passionate times with a man who is okay with change, intelligence and expressions. Looking for benefits with friend. **nowliveit, 44, #115188**

NICE FUN GUY
Hi. I'm an outgoing fun guy who can also be happy as a home-body. I'm looking for a sincere, fun guy to be friends with. Let's give it a try! **Austin-pax, 49, #101238**

NICE GUY
swm 42 5'10" 160 looking for big strong masculine muscular men for friendship casual dating & possible LTR Im a very laid easy going type person to get along with. **mgf2005, 42, #101030**

JUST friends

FRIENDS AGES 21-28
I am looking for friends to get to know each other and meet one day. **mela-nie24, 24, #115105**

THRILLSEEKING ROMANTIC
I am totally gorgeous, athletic and adventurous - but I'm also super smarty and brainy. It all makes for a very thrilling experience. Couch potatoes need not apply. **sweetandsexi, 33, #115039**

messages

BABE-I LOVED YOU so what!
BDAY GAL KAT ! The BIG 3-0 ain't as bad as they say, only gets better from here! **XO EJ**

BUNNY LE ROI. you are all i need and have ever needed. love you forever Tweeter

CRYSTAL: OUR EXISTENCE is still shared between us in essence. casey

E 40TH-CROSS PECK Find your initials in cute sandtrap 'tween 2 trees. Keep smiling!

HAPPY 30TH B.DAY to Kathryn Lasater. Love, Mom & Jack & Doodle & Deacon, too

IN LOVING MEMORY of my brother Michael: Your life was taken too soon. Life will never be the same without you and your laughter. I love and miss you every day bro! Doug

JOHN BENNETT- DEC. 27th. Happy Birthday! Wish I was your girl.-T

KAT, HAPPY 30TH Birthday from Japan! I love and miss you dearly, so we are moving to Austin. REALLY!!! A toast to AliKat being reunited.

KATHRYN'S FLIRTY THIRTY birthday what a cool chick

KATHRYN: HAPPY BIRTHDAY my love. May the next 30 years bring you everything your heart desires! Forever yours - Tim

MRS. LASATER THIS is ur q-pon to redeem a birthday weave from ur pal Hoyle!

SONJA H, HAPPY Birthday! You are sorely missed, and your cat too. -R.

THANKS FOR THE best Christmas ever! Love you, Nummy.

TOTALLY LOVED YOU, COULD have given me chance, miss you and need friend. From CC1

WELCOME TO THE 30 + club, Kathryn! You're gonna love it! Have a most wonderful birthday and simply embrace it! I'm so glad to have met you and am looking forward to getting to know you better in the years to come. Love, Keri

Y VOLVER, VOLVER, Volver

HOMESLICE HOSTESS MISSING
Where did you go Ashley? I thought I'd get to visit you on the block. Now I've lost my chance? let's catch back up. Your Former Zen Crush. **When: Thursday, Nov. 24. Where: Home Slice Pizza. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900140**

AT THE VET?
You-buying kitty food at Travis Country Vet on 12/16. Me-bringing my black/white kitten in for surgery. You let me cut in line. Really wish I had talked to you more! **When: Friday, Dec. 16. Where: At Travis Country Vet Hospital on 290S. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900139**

CLEOPATRA OF GINNY'S
Your beauty has captured me Cleopatra! At the Dale show Thursday at Ginny's you were wearing a "I'm a Pepper" shirt. I just would like to know. Are

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a Shot in the Dark

PRINCESS @ COOP
Sept. '04: You w/friend Jackie(?), unique style and beautiful smile. Me: rugged yet sensitive guy w/motorcycle. We shared a kiss on your balcony. No one else is looking for you! **When: Saturday, September 11, 2004. Where: Co-op Bar on 6th. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900154**

TALL DARK, HANDSOME...
Outward appearances only count for so much. You: Jerk? Me: Stupid?... Im pretending you can actually play Trivial pursuit but I know my dog can speak better spanish than you! **When: Sunday, Dec. 18. Where: His place. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900153**

SHARON FROM PHILLY
waiting for the 331 in an awesome jacket. It was an immense pleasure to meet you, & I would like to do so again. Call **When: Thursday, Dec. 15.**

Where: busstop. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900152

I HATE HAMBURGERS...
Joe: I abruptly quit my job; with that came the end of any future wednesday night encounters with you. Who's going to make sure there isn't cheese on your #17/#10? **When: Wednesday, November 30. Where: Hamburger Hell. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900151**

FUEL BARBACK.
i worked and when i was leaving, you asked me to get the lights on the stairs on for you. you-brown hair & a smile that's to die for. reply? **When: Friday, Dec. 16. Where: Fuel Nightclub on Trinity. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900150**

SABINA IT'S KIT
YOU: Sabina @ Whole Woman's Health. ME: Kit from Quest. Can we meet fZoiooffee or something? Want to

meet you. **When: Wednesday, Dec. 7. Where: Whole Woman's Health. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900149**

DON'S DEPOT BEAUTY...
table closest to the door. You: tall gorgeous brunette w/2 girlfriends. Me: sitting booth-side next to you in blue cowboy shirt w/2 friends. We looked, we smiled, you were gone... **When: Friday, Dec. 16. Where: Don's Depot. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900148**

AARON T-CLOUD CUSTOMER
you: aaron my long lost soccer boyfriend and all time favorite customer- ex- manchaca/lamar thundercat, still enamoured and wanting more... still hungry??? **When: Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004. Where: thundercloud manchaca/lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900147**

MARGARET FROM N.O.
12/18/05 at 1 a.m. leaving the bar

where i work. Couldn't talk then, but would like to have a proper meeting? This is corny, but i had to try. **When: Sunday, Dec. 18. Where: at the door. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900146**

ANOTHER UNION @UNION?
You: In the lounge wearing a "Fight the Man" t-shirt Me: Blond with dimples who misplaced your # You shared your couch and a cookie- Wanna share mine? **When: Monday, Dec. 12. Where: UT Union- 2nd floor. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900145**

ACC RIVERSIDE SATURDAYS
I see you every Saturday morning looking so tall dark and handsome. Now that it is over maybe we can have some fun. Love Art History? **When: Saturday, Dec. 17. Where: ACC Riverside. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900144**

GROOVIN' AT SPEAKEASY
Dancing at Speakeasy 12/2. You:

aspiring comedian getting MBA. Me: tall redhead who loved to swing. You were a republican, i wasn't. How were the stand-up gigs in LA? **When: Friday, Dec. 2. Where: Speakeasy. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900143**

ALAMO VILLAGE
Me your waitress, you cute King Kong fan drinking a large Dr Pepper. I told you I loved you with my eyes, come back for "full" service. **When: Thursday, Dec. 15. Where: Alamo Village 1050 showing. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900142**

2 CUTIES @GLASS
Hey-The pictures came back great! It was my birthday and my friend asked you two to be in a picture with me! We should have talked after the photo... another chance? **When: Saturday, Dec. 10. Where: Glass. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900141**

HOMESLICE HOSTESS MISSING
Where did you go Ashley? I thought I'd get to visit you on the block. Now I've lost my chance? let's catch back up. Your Former Zen Crush. **When: Thursday, Nov. 24. Where: Home Slice Pizza. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900140**

AT THE VET?
You-buying kitty food at Travis Country Vet on 12/16. Me-bringing my black/white kitten in for surgery. You let me cut in line. Really wish I had talked to you more! **When: Friday, Dec. 16. Where: At Travis Country Vet Hospital on 290S. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900139**

CLEOPATRA OF GINNY'S
Your beauty has captured me Cleopatra! At the Dale show Thursday at Ginny's you were wearing a "I'm a Pepper" shirt. I just would like to know. Are

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NEED SOMETIME MAN

Attached to love one who is sick. Needing love to sustain me, if the energy is right. I'm pretty, funny, intelligent. U are a sensual, demonstrative and independent artist. Weekdays. **lola, 45, #115093**

NAIVE LUST

Looking for an open-minded, intellectual, attractive, sensual, interesting, family-oriented guy with no children; who is a pervert in the bed. I want the best of both worlds; Open to new ideas. **Vana, 35, #115092**

SHY SOFT MAMA

Happy in relationship seeking seldom but hot and important encounters with intellectual sweet caring maybe misunderstood man who enjoys still attractive well-groomed heavier busty women with brains and heart. **Gen28, 28, #115038**

HORNY NEED MORE!

29 yr old married HF. seeking discreet sex partner for occasional romps in the sack. you must be discreet. 26-35 hispanic male. no long term relationships. speak spanish. **2noty2bniece, 29, #114844**

TREAT ME RIGHT

BBW, newly single, looking for d/d free male to win my affections, and travel with me. No, you're not dreaming. Meet me. **TreatUright, 38, #101247**

KRAZIELADIE

SWF Bi fun loving outgoing red head, adventurous risk taking, willing to try anything once. **krazieladie, 29, #101155**

HOT AND READY

About myself, black female with short brown hair, full figured professional attached. Looking for a very pretty full figured female also attached for discreet fun. **Hottie, 34, #115154**

SINGLE MOM SEXY SINGLE HORNEY

I am totally new at this and looking for someone to fulfill my fantasies. **shyslut, 22, #115060**

DOWNTOWN DAYTIME FUN

Wanting to hook up with a lady for discreet daytime playtime. LOVE giving and eager to please. Discreet, clean and ready to play. Let me know how I can please you. **Daytime_Downtown, 49, #115156**

LOOKING FOR FUN!

I'm looking to meet new friends and have some good clean fun! A good sense of humor and good personal hygiene go a long way. **cajunluvin, 33, #115129**

GREAT GUY

looking 4 a woman to hang out with and have some FUN! I'm fun and good looking guy and some say im a pretty funny guy. I love to make women laugh. **cowboy05, 19, #115111**

LOOKING FOR WOMEN

Hi my name Keko I look for the women who wants to have fun, play & go out to see a movie, to have a dinner & lot more. **TIO2376, 29, #115086**

SUGAR DADDY NEEDED

boytoy, cute, in shape, willing to please older secure, looks unimportant, small endowment a plus, discreet, young looking, looking for over 40, whatever you want you got it. **ertil, 22, #115121**

TOMORROW'S MAN TODAY

Almodovar, New Wave, Bastard Pop, Strangers With Candy, kitsch, my dog, Goldfrapp... These are a few of my favorite things. GWM, 35, seeks partner with similar interests who's tall and handsome. **kirkconnect, 35, #101123**

YOUNG TX GUY

will like to find a lady or ladies to have fun with, this can be a short or long

term relation. will like to find a lady between 18-45yrs. **youngTxGuy, 28, #114991**

ABUSE ME

I'm looking to have some discreet fun. Open to anything and everything. **spacemaster69, 34, #114986**

ATTENTION HUSBANDS

want to watch this sweet, handsome latino fellow touch & fondle your pretty wife while you watch or participate. I'll only do what you want me to. My place or yours. **Bond007, 34, #114968**

DIVER DOWN

New to Austin and looking to explore the diverse culture here. Ready for a night out on the town followed by an evening of passionate romance. **xtcan1, 41, #114890**

NAUGHTY BOY

available for very pretty, very feminine transsexual, naughty female or hot & sexy couple. I am a handsome, generous SHM. **miko, 44, #101366**

TITILATING TONGUE DELIVERS

I love to use my tongue to give you pleasure. I am a healthy intelligent man looking for a woman or a couple. Discreet no strings attached fun experiences desired now. **pleasuredoctor, 42, #101309**

NYMPHO

I need a sexy woman for my first time. If you can help, contact me. Let's meet for drinks. My man will chaperone. **SaDiE, 28, #115157**

WE R NAKED

We are a fun loving open minded married couple. I am 39 she is 45. We are done making babies but like to practice..ALOT. Do you? get back intouch. **nascarnaked, 39, #115144**

MARRIED COUPLE DISCREET

would like to meet other couples in

the same age range as us 30 & 33 OR slightly older for couples swinging sessions, must be fun and safe and attractive. **spun, 33, #115085**

COUPLE LOOKING

We are an easy-going emotionally mature couple with a stable home-life looking for a little adventure with a curvy woman. See us occasionally for a fantastic Friday or Saturday night. **CactusLove, 31, #115055**

THE OTHER SIDE

Safe to say we both like a variety of sexual play. Extreme but within limits. Body and mind will be bare, exposed and open to any and all sensation. **up4anything, 28, #115028**

SEXY TS

iim a very sexy, very hot passable transsexual. iim 5'10" 145 pounds with sexy hormonally induced breasts. iim very classy, too, and dress very provocatively. iim 28 years old. **nicole_anais, 28, #115140**

PANTYHOSE/BOTH/PARTY

My body is not a temple it's an amusement park! My park has a theme, I'm a sexy crossdresser, love panty hose sex, very clean/healthy, seeking females, cd/tv, coupl. into same party attitude over looks, BBW in panty hose sexy. **ter-rytxcd, 51, #114980**

FIRM SMOOTH PRETTY

Pretty dressed in lace panties and very handsome dressed in jeans. I've been fantasizing about a man for too long. Can you treat me like a woman? **jackie69, 47, #101254**

BLONDE SHEMALE HOTTIE

I am a sexy siren wherever I go. I like men who are in very good shape. I love naughty (no strings) fun! You will love to make me all excited. **BlondeHottie, 29, #101055**

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New Year's Eve Spectacular with the White Ghost Shivers and the Small Stars

**Saturday, December 31, 8:30pm • Blue Genie
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New Year's Eve is pure bullshit, start to finish. It's hype stacked on hype stacked on hype ... ad infinitum. Not even Vegas blows as much smoke up the collective ass. Scratch that ... not even the White House press secretary ... well, you get the idea. One arbitrary digit flips and the whole world's supposed to swap spit, spray champagne, rattle, whistle, honk, and holler? Well, actually not the whole world ... just certain time zones in the Western hemisphere. After all, time is relative. In fact, it could be argued that time doesn't really exist at all – that it's just a philosophical framework we've superimposed on the physical world. Of course, as any philosophy major will tell you, that kind of thinking doesn't get your timecard punched, but it sure might get you punched. People, Westerners in particular, like their time in a straight line. That way they feel like they can get a better glimpse of the end. Surely we weren't blessed with consciousness just to chase our tails. Other peoples' tails, well that's something entirely different, and if you're chasing tail on New Year's Eve, it really pays to at least pretend to buy into the hype. Besides, the party is only as good as what you bring to it anyway, right? This Saturday Austin bands the Small Stars and the White Ghost Shivers are bringing circus freaks to their New Year's party at the Blue Genie. Talk about putting your "Keep Austin Weird" money where your mouth is. It's not like the Shivers didn't have a serious Carnivale vibe going anyway, but pair them up with the Small Stars and you've got a three-titted bearded lady of a bill to say the least. Adding circus freaks to that mix is like spraying whipped cream on cheese fries: It might be good, but is it healthy? You should definitely go find out for yourself.

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You're fun, single, athletic, adventurous and love to travel, right? Who wouldn't want to go on a ski vacation with you to Winterpark, Colorado? Exactly. So take action. Go to **austinchronicle.com/loverslane** and fill out a free profile with a picture and you could be shushing down the slopes this Winter! But hurry! The person who fills out the best profile before January 6 wins!

* Package does not include airfare. You must fill out a free profile and upload a picture to enter.

you available? **When: Thursday, Dec. 15. Where: Ginny's Little Longhorn. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900138**

JO'S AND CRUTCHES...

Your crutches and DKNY sweatshirt were mighty sexy... just wanted to see if you honestly read these. If so, I figured I might get a smile for it. See ya. **When: Thursday, Dec. 15. Where: Jo's Coffee. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #900137**

MOZARTS, YOU- REDBANDANA

you- cute guy at Mozarts, red bandana, sometimes with friends. her- cute short brunette, computer/reading, too shy to talk to you! Be a man, I'm giving you the green light! **When: Wednesday, Dec. 14. Where: Mozarts. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900136**

PEACHES

Have I told you lately that I love you? I do, madly. **When: Thursday, Dec. 15.**

Where: Every time I close my eyes.

You: Woman. Me: Man. #900135

FAINT LOVES LIT

You: Jackson Could be a dead ringer for Joshua Homme Me: Marlene Couldn't keep in my excitement for The Faint Should've asked you out but didn't Better late than never? **When: Wednesday, Dec. 7. Where: In my Literature class. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900133**

SCOTT THE CUTEST MOTORCYCLECOP

I used to make your gingerbread latte with a smile and a wink. I think about you often...are you still tied down? If not, take me for a ride? **When: Saturday, March 15, 2003. Where: starbucks on brodie. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900132**

APPLIED MATERIALS GUY

Monday 12/12 lunchtime at Vespa. Me, blonde in boots and jeans. You, new to

Austin, bought sweatshirt and asked where to buy jewelry like mine. Need a lunchtime tour guide? **When: Monday, Dec. 12. Where: Vespa Austin. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900131**

HEY KIM!

You sat on a couch holding a chihuahua I sat in a chair next to you, I meant to ask for your number. You, green eyes and cute toes. **When: Saturday, Dec. 10. Where: Christmas party last Saturday. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900130**

BRYAN AT RITZ

You Bryan with a Y. Me the girl @ Ritz then 710 and probably back again. You bought us all drinks. let me properly thank you. **When: Saturday, November 19. Where: Ritz. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900129**

PIERCED EBONY PRINCESS

Bus #1, you said piercings were sexy.

Lent you a lighter @ Buffalo Exchange then later a cigarette near UT. Me: pierced lip W/ mohawk, extremely shy. Please respond!! **When: Sunday, November 6. Where: Southbound bus #1. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900128**

A MAGIC LIFE?

12/13/05 capmet #3 i asked about the book you were reading. interested in borrowing my portable darkness? **When: Tuesday, Dec. 13. Where: #3 bus. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900127**

HEB OFF JOLLYVILLE

You were chatting on your phone.. wearing a grey t-shirt..i think..i was in patagonia sweater..messy hair..jeans rolled up with boots.. we caught eyes a few dozen times.. leaving town! your name? **When: Tuesday, November 29. Where: HEB off Jollyville. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900126**

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